

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

Rashid urges people to vote wisely

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Interior Nathir Rashid on Monday called on Jordanians to exercise their right on the day of elections in order to turn out a parliament which "we pride ourselves with." Speaking on a programme called "Aqlam wa Ara'a," Mr. Rashid said that people should elect those who really represent them. He said: "We in Jordan have qualified persons who can adhere to their responsibilities and represent their voters, so I urge Jordanians to elect those whom they trust and believe will address their causes."

Israel splashes out to protect ambassadors

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Israeli Foreign Ministry has decided to spend \$3 million on armoured-plated limousines for 10 of its most high-profile ambassadors abroad, the Yediot Aharonot daily reported Monday. A Foreign Ministry source told the paper the cars, which cost \$300,000 apiece, would be given to diplomats in "sensitive" postings such as Amman and Cairo, as well as those in posts considered to be dangerous. "The security of diplomats is the responsibility of the host country, but (internal security agency) Shin Bet decided that in certain cases that protection was not enough," the source told the paper.

Volume 22 Number 6577

AMMAN TUESDAY, JULY 8, 1997, RABI 13, 1418

Price: Jordan 200 Fils

Palestinian prisoners stricken by food poisoning

BETHLEHEM (AFP) — Around 20 Palestinian prisoners held at the Israeli prison of Nafha in the southern Negev Desert were stricken by a virulent bout of food poisoning on Monday, Palestinian officials said. "According to their families, they were laid low by vomiting and diarrhoea after they were taken to nearby Beer-Sheva Hospital," Issa Karaka, chairman of the Palestinian Prisoners' Association, told AFP. A spokesman for the Israeli Prison Service denied the report. "We have no knowledge of this affair. However, last Wednesday five detainees at the Nafha Prison were affected and admitted for 24 hours to the prison infirmary where they recovered before being returned to their cells," he said.

Iraq to carry out census in mid-October

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq is to carry out a census on October 15 for the first time in a decade, the official newspaper Al Jumhuriya announced on Monday. According to official estimates, the population has climbed to more than 21 million people, from 16.2 million in the 1987 census. Around four million people live in Baghdad.

Gunmen fire at Israeli jeep in West Bank

BETHLEHEM (AFP) — Unidentified gunmen opened fire at an Israeli army jeep near the Palestinian town of Bethlehem in the West Bank late Sunday, military sources said. The shots caused no casualties or damage, they said. The army sealed off the area and imposed a curfew on the nearby Palestinian village of Al Khader. Palestinian sources said.

Hamas commando recaptured after jail break

HEBRON (AFP) — A member of Hamas accused of anti-Israeli attacks that left 11 people dead was recaptured Monday after four days on the run, Palestinian sources said. Ibrahim Ghannim, 35, who escaped on Thursday from a Palestinian prison in the West Bank city of Hebron in circumstances which remain unclear, was picked up by members of the Preventative Security Service, said the sources. Ghannim was originally arrested by Palestinian police in April after a Hamas cell was dismantled in the village of Surif near the West Bank town of Hebron. Three alleged members of the group are being held by Israel.

Israelis feel Netanyahu safer than Peres — poll

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A total of 41.5 per cent of Israelis feel safer under the leadership of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu than under his predecessor Shimon Peres, according to a poll published Monday. The survey was published in the Jerusalem Post daily and carried out by the Modi in Ezrabi Institute last month. In a similar poll by the organisation in June last year, 28.9 per cent of Israelis said they believed their personal security had improved under Mr. Netanyahu.

Hungarian president says Jordan's role is vital, pivotal and stabilising

From Abdullah Hassanat in Budapest

EUROPEAN CONTRIBUTION to security and stability in the Mediterranean region, the roles Jordan and Hungary can play in furthering that goal and in acting as a bridge between Europe and the Middle East were the recurring themes of HRH Crown Prince Hassan's talks with Hungarian leaders and his exchange with ambassadors of Arab and Muslim countries here.

Wounding up a tour that took him to Turkey, the U.S., the U.K. and Switzerland, the Crown Prince emphasised in his talks with Hungarian leaders the need for "like-minded" Jordan and Hungary to push for a greater European role in the Middle East and Mediterranean region and to use its office as an active member of the Organisation of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and its future membership in the European Union (EU) and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) to help advance the cause of peace and development in Western Asia and North Africa.

In his talks with President Arpad Goncz and other officials, the Crown Prince explained Jordanian positions on the peace process, Jerusalem and Israeli settlements, and Jordan's vision of a new region where countries and peoples live at peace, an official source said.

According to the source, the president expressed his country's interest in the development of the region and described Jordan's role in the peace process as vital, pivotal and stabilising. Mr. Goncz said that



Crown Prince Hassan chats with Hungarian President Arpad Goncz in the parliament building, in Budapest, Monday, prior to their talks. Prince Hassan arrived Sunday in Budapest for a three-day visit to Hungary (AFP photo)

Jordan was an essential partner in the search for peace and in peace-building in the Middle East.

According to the source, the president pledged to activate with vigour the political, economic and cultural agreements that the two countries have signed in the past.

The Crown Prince, in his talks with the president, and later with parliament speaker and trade representatives said Jordan was committed to furthering peace in the broader region that includes Iran, Iraq, the Gulf and Turkey.

Furthermore, and in regard to the "core countries" of the region, Jordan, Israel, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and the Palestinian territories,

Region on rebound after centuries in abeyance — Prince Hassan

BUDAPEST — HRH Crown Prince Hassan Monday recalled history to advance the thesis that a common idiom has emerged in the Mediterranean region promising a brighter future for all the peoples on the shores of the great sea.

Addressing an August gathering of 1,500 scholars from 70 countries in Asia, Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, the Crown Prince said that the "trans-regional, collaborative culture" that was the defining feature of the Mediterranean civilisation in the

eighteenth to the sixteenth century... is (now) on the rebound after centuries in the abeyance."

Delivering the opening address at the 35th International Congress of Asian and North African Studies (ICANAS) Prince Hassan urged the scholars to use the lessons of history for the forging of a better future for humanity.

"None of us can change history," he said. "But we can, and we must, use the lessons of the past to reinvigorate the present for the

Netanyahu faces yet another Knesset no-confidence vote

TEL AVIV (AP) — A day before another no-confidence motion against him in the Knesset, Benjamin Netanyahu encountered new trouble as a key religious leader suggested in comments broadcast Sunday that the prime minister was "not so suited."

Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, leader of the Shas Party which is critical to Mr. Netanyahu's shaky parliament majority, said in his weekly sermon Saturday that only if the Jews were worthy would God "put brains in the heads of our leaders."

"That's the way it is with Bibi Netanyahu," he said,

referring to the premier by his nickname. "If the government is headed by one who is not so suited, it is our fault, not his."

The unusual comments, broadcast on Israel TV Sunday, seemed to confirm reports that Rabbi Yosef's support for Mr. Netanyahu was wavering and added to a growing list of political headaches for the premier.

Parliament is to vote Monday afternoon on a no-confidence vote brought by the opposition Labour and Meretz parties to protest stalled peace talks and confrontations with the Palestinians.

Mr. Netanyahu controls

66 seats in the 120-member chamber, and an absolute majority of 61 votes is needed to bring down the government. Two weeks ago, legislators rejected a similar motion by a 55-50 vote — but 11 members of Mr. Netanyahu's coalition skipped the balloting to show their displeasure with him.

If Shas bolted with its 10 seats Mr. Netanyahu would fall — but this seemed unlikely to occur Monday. Israel Radio said Rabbi Yosef called Mr. Netanyahu after the TV report to assure him he still supported the government.

Israel's premier names other finance minister than Sharon

TEL AVIV (AP) — In hopes of ending a political crisis, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Monday appointed his former justice minister, Yaakov Neeman, to take over the finance ministry.

The crisis began last month when Finance Minister Dan Meridor resigned over a policy dispute with the prime minister and said he no longer had faith in Mr. Netanyahu.

The top candidate for Mr. Meridor's post became Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, who said he

would take over the treasury if Mr. Netanyahu would bring him into a small circle of ministers who set policy in the peace negotiations with the Palestinians.

This, in turn, angered Foreign Minister David Levy who said the negotiations were part of his portfolio and that other ministers, including Mr. Sharon, should not be involved in the decisions.

Mr. Netanyahu then turned to Mr. Neeman as a compromise candidate. Israeli media said Mr.

Neeman rejected the offer until a meeting with Mr. Netanyahu Sunday night. Mr. David Bar-Ilan, Netanyahu's senior aide, said Mr. Neeman accepted the offer. Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav called Mr. Neeman's appointment "a good decision." Mr. Neeman, a religious Jew, had been the choice of Mr. Netanyahu's orthodox coalition partners who holds 23 of the government's 66 seats in parliament.

(Continued on page 7)

Israel eases criteria for Palestinian day labourers

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — In a slight easing of the closure, Israel Monday lowered from 27 to 25 the minimum age for married Palestinian workers from the Gaza Strip eligible to work in Israel.

The change is intended to help fill the quota for Gaza labourers employed in Israel, said Shlomo Dror, a spokesman for the government's chief liaison office with the Palestinians.

The quota allows for 35,000 workers, but only 24,000 Gazans have been seeking work permits so far, Mr. Dror said. Some 35,000 Palestinians from the West Bank also work in Israel, most in day jobs in agriculture and construction.

Israel is also increasing by 1,000 the number of merchants and Palestinian officials eligible for entry permits to Israel, Mr. Dror said.

The more than 2 million Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip have not been able to enter Israel

Israeli Arab and ultra-Orthodox deputies unite against flag law

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Ultra-Orthodox Jewish and Israeli Arab deputies on Monday boycotted a meeting of the parliament's education committee in protest at a draft law forcing schools to fly the national flag, parliamentary sources said.

The draft, due to be presented to parliament next week, is opposed by Israeli Arab groups on the grounds that the flag — with its Star of David — is a symbol of Judaism.

Ultra-Orthodox groups in turn consider the flag as a secular symbol. "The flag law is a form of secular coercion which hits at both practicing Jews and Arabs," Rabbi Shlomo Benizri, the head of the parliamentary group of the ultra-Orthodox Sephardic Shas Party, told Israel Radio. He warned the parliament against adopting the law, saying it could lead to acts of vandalism against the nation's emblem.

Israeli public opinion was shocked when a young ultra-Orthodox Jew burned the national flag in front of photographers during Israel day in May.

freely since after the 1991 Gulf war. Palestinians who want to visit Israel, including Jerusalem, need special permits.

Since 1993, Israel has also sealed the Palestinian areas completely for

extended periods to prevent attacks by Palestinian militants. Each day of full closure cost the fledgling Palestinian economy some \$4.4 million a day, according to U.N. estimates.

Jordan-Kuwait Bank general assembly meetings cancelled over irregularities

AMMAN (J.T.) — A dispute over the validity of authorisations lead to the cancellation of both the regular and extraordinary general assembly meetings of the Jordan-Kuwait Bank scheduled Sunday night.

The withdrawal of the group headed by Tawfiq Fakhoury, the chairman of the board of directors at the Bank of Jordan, which owns 35 per cent of the Jordan-Kuwait Bank, resulted in an incomplete quorum.

Sufian Sartawi, chairman of the board of directors of the Jordan-Kuwait Bank said that the authorisations

in question were illegal, written by hand and the bank's administration did not issue invitations to attend the general assembly meeting in this manner.

Mr. Sartawi added that these authorisations had been withheld by the Companies Comptroller at the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

In return, Mr. Fakhoury said that the handwritten authorisations submitted to the Companies Comptroller's representatives prior to the general assembly's meeting were legal since they carried real signatures

and accurate shareholder numbers and that there was nothing wrong with the fact that they were handwritten.

Mr. Fakhoury added that there was an invitation to two meetings which were to be held on June 18, but the preparatory procedures for both meetings, including the distribution of invitations to shareholders were illegal and a large number of invitations had not been sent out, and the [Jordan-Kuwait] bank did not have a large number of shareholders' proper addresses.

(Continued on page 7)

Palestinians keep up campaign against West Bank land dealers

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) is keeping up its campaign against Palestinians who sell Arab land to Jews and has now arrested a total of 22 people, Palestinian Justice Minister Freih Abu Middein said Monday.

"We are continuing our campaign because we will never allow anybody to give up our land to Jewish settlers. We are holding 22 suspects" who will soon be brought to trial, Mr. Mid-

dein told AFP.

"Most of the suspects being detained fabricated false powers of attorney supposedly sent by Palestinians living abroad, especially those in Latin America, or false identity documents in the name of the real owners," he said.

Mr. Middein caused outrage in Israel in May when he announced that any Palestinian land dealers selling land to Israelis would be subject to the death sentence under an old Jordanian law.

Shortly afterwards three Palestinians accused of selling land to Jews were found murdered.

Palestinians see the sales as treason as the land, which the PNA wants as part of a future state, will be turned into Jewish settlements.

Israel has blamed President Yasser Arafat's PNA for the murders and has charged six Palestinian intelligence agents for the attempted kidnapping of a man suspected of involvement in such sales.

Lebanese guerrillas fire rockets into Israel

SIDON (AFP) — Guerrillas in south Lebanon fired at least seven Katyusha rockets into northern Israel on Sunday after five Lebanese civilians were wounded by Israeli shelling, security sources said.

The rockets, fired by unidentified guerrillas at 22:20 p.m., landed in the region of Naharayya in northern Israel, they said.

In Israel, military sources reported several explosions in the border region but said they caused no casualties or damage.

They said that either mortar shells or rockets were fired at positions of Israeli forces occupying a buffer zone in south Lebanon and that some may have landed in Israeli territory.

Two more Lebanese civilians, Serhan Tabaja and Mohammad Ali Beshir, were wounded by Israeli retaliatory shelling on the village of Kfar Tebbit in south Lebanon, Lebanese security sources said.

The Iranian-backed Hizbollah said its guerrillas fired Katyusha rockets at Israeli posts in Blat, Zafateh and Birkat Richa in the Israeli-held border zone but did not claim responsibility for the cross-border attack.

"The attacks are in response to harming our

(Continued on page 7)

Iraq says it is time for Arabs to bust sanctions

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq called Monday for fellow Arab states to turn their words of sympathy for the sufferings of the Iraqi people into action by breaking the seven-year-old U.N. sanctions.

"We believe support for the Iraqi people should not be limited to declarations of sympathy. Arab countries must act by breaking the embargo," said the daily Al Thawra of the ruling Baath Party.

It called for the Arabs "to raise their voice to point out that the reasons for the imposition of sanctions on Iraq no longer exist."

The United Nations imposed the sanctions after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on August 2, 1990. An embargo on Baghdad's lifeline oil exports cannot be lifted until the country has been stripped of its weapons of mass destruction.

U.N.-sponsored trade embargo imposed on Iraq since August 1990.

Turkey has complained that it has lost over \$30 bil-

lion in lost trade with Iraq, which had been Ankara's

(Continued on page 7)

Ankara lifts ban on trade with Baghdad

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit announced Monday the lifting of a ban on border trade with Iraq imposed after its 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

"The ban on border trade in the southeast has been lifted," Mr. Ecevit told a meeting of his Democratic Left Party. He did not elaborate.

Although he did not mention Iraq by name, the deputy premier was clearly referring to Baghdad.

Turkey has imposed no restrictions on trade with its two other southeastern neighbours, Iran and Syria.

Mr. Ecevit did not say if the government's move constituted a violation of a



STANDING TRIAL FOR ALL THE OTHER REASONS: Japanese Red Army members, from left to right: Massao Adashi, Huroo Wako, Kozo Okamoto (hidden) and Kazuo Tohira, appear through the gate window of a Lebanese courtroom during their hearing in Beirut, Monday. The Japanese Red Army members arrested for forgery charges are facing a sentence of at least seven years in jail. The justice palace was heavily guarded and photographers were banned from taking pictures in the courtroom (see story on page 12) (AFP photo)

Iraq closes anti-Syrian radio station in bid for closer ties

CAIRO (AP) — Iraq has shut down a radio station run by Syrian dissidents in another step toward reconciliation with Damascus, the London-based Al Hayat newspaper reported Monday.

"Voice of Arab Syria," which was critical of the regime of Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, was silenced two weeks ago "in a positive initiative towards the Syrians," Al Hayat said. The paper quoted unnamed Iraqi opposition officials in Damascus.

The opposition officials also told Al Hayat that Syria continued to allow the anti-Iraqi "Voice of Iraq broadcast" to operate. But its programmes "have become more general and less critical," they said.

Iraq and Syria are ruled by rival factions of the Arab Baath Party.

Iraq's move against the radio station followed the June 14 opening of three

border crossing points between the two countries.

The frontier had been closed since 1980, when Iraq severed relations after Damascus backed Iran in the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Relations worsened in 1991 when Syria sent troops to join the U.S.-led coalition that ended Iraq's seven-month occupation of Kuwait.

In recent weeks, business delegations from Iraq and Syria have exchanged visits.

Iranian nuclear power plant to launch operations soon

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran said Monday that one production unit at its Russian-built nuclear reactor at the southern Iranian port city of Bushehr will begin operations soon.

"The first unit will come into service soon to produce some 1,000 megawatts of electricity," Iranian Atomic Energy Organisation Vice-President Reza Amrollahi told Tehran Radio, but did not elaborate.

The \$800 million nuclear power plant is fiercely opposed by the United States, which charges it could be used for military purposes.

However, Mr. Amrollahi said the reactor was for "peaceful purposes" and he has written a letter to the International Atomic Energy Agency criticising Washington over its recent nuclear test in the Nevada Desert, the radio said.

The U.S. Department of Energy said the underground test last Wednesday was the first in a series of tests to manage the country's ageing nuclear weapons.

Last week Iran and Russia signed an accord on control and safety procedures to meet international standards for the Bushehr reactor.

Construction of the plant has been slow and the Iranian parliament has opened an investigation into the difficulties.

Building began in 1975 by the German group Siemens, which withdrew after the 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran toppled the U.S.-backed Shah.

After the signing of an accord in 1995, the project was resumed by Russia, which is to provide two water-pressurised nuclear reactors.

Lebanon truce committee meets

NAJOURA (AFP) — The International Committee monitoring the ceasefire agreement in southern Lebanon met Monday to hear truce violation complaints by Lebanon and Israeli officials said.

The five-nation committee convened at the headquarters of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in the border town of Najoura, the Lebanese officials told AFP.

The committee is due to discuss a Lebanese complaint over the wounding of seven Lebanese civilians, including a seven-year-old boy and a teenager, in an Israeli bombardment of southern Lebanon Sunday.

The Israeli shelling came in response to the killing of an Israeli army officer in an ambush by guerrillas in the Israeli-backed Hizbollah guerrilla group inside the Israeli-occupied border zone of south Lebanon.

The truce panel was also due to hear an Israeli protest lodged after unidentified guerrillas in southern Lebanon fired at least seven Katyusha rockets into northern Israel also Sunday.

Yilmaz vows to clamp down on Islamist schools in Turkey

ANKARA (AFP) — Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz pledged Monday to close down hundreds of state-run Islamic schools under a controversial education reform backed by Turkey's pro-secular armed forces.

"The education reform will be put into effect," Mr. Yilmaz said as he read his new government's programme in a televised speech in parliament.

The draft reform bill, under which the state-run secondary schools with Islamic education will be closed, was a major bone of contention between the powerful army and the previous Islamist-led government, headed by Welfare Party leader Necmettin Erbakan.

Refusing to endorse the bill, Mr. Erbakan stepped down on June 18 under heavy pressure by the military and was replaced by Mr. Yilmaz, who announced the formation of a secular coalition government of three parties on June 30.

Mr. Yilmaz, who now commands a clear majority in the 550-seat parliament having persuaded a number of deputies to defect from the outgoing coalition, is expected to win a confidence vote on Saturday.

The new prime minister also pledged to improve economic and social conditions in the mainly Kurdish-populated southeast, scene of a violent separatist insurgency.

"Our government will introduce new economic and social programmes to improve the living conditions in the southeast ... We will also continue with the fight against separatist terrorism with determination," Mr. Yilmaz said.

During his ill-fated premiership in March of last year, Mr. Yilmaz promised a similar package of measures for the troubled region, but the plan came to naught as his fragile coalition collapsed three months later.

He said he would take measures to improve Turkey's widely criticised human rights record, but did not elaborate.

More than 25,000 people have been killed in violence in the southeast since 1984 when the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party, or PKK, launched its armed campaign for a Kurdish homeland.

Mr. Yilmaz said his government would intensify efforts to secure membership of the European Union.

Turkey, which has a customs agreement with the union granting it privileged trading status, is on the waiting list with 12 other countries seeking to join the union.

But the weakness of its economy, rifts with EU-member Greece and a poor human rights record make an early entry into the European Union unlikely, say observers.

On defence, Mr. Yilmaz said that due to Turkey's unique location in the centre of volatile regions like the Middle East, the Balkans and the Caucasus, Ankara would not reduce military spending in the near future.

Turkey is to spend \$3.1 billion on weapons systems and other military equipment this year.

Mr. Yilmaz also pledged to step up privatisation of state-run companies and banks, with his aides saying that the new government's objective would be to raise four billion dollars from this year's sales.

Algerian FIS leader goes on trial

PARIS (R) — Islamist leader Abdelkader Hachani goes on trial in Algeria on Monday on charges of trying to undermine state security, after more than five years of detention without trial, Algerian newspapers said.

Mr. Hachani led the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) to a landslide first-round victory in a general election in 1991. The authorities cancelled the ballot in January 1992, sparking violence in which about 60,000 people have died.

The former oil engineer took over the FIS leadership temporarily after party President Abbassi Madani and his Deputy Ali Belhadj were arrested, six months before the election.

They were tried on charges of subversion and each sentenced in July 1992 to 12 years imprisonment.

Algerian newspapers said Mr. Hachani would be tried in Algiers criminal court along with three journalists from the Al Khabar newspaper which published a statement from Mr. Hachani calling on members of the military to disobey orders from officers to act against Islamist militants.

Mr. Hachani was arrested in January 1992 after the publication and was taken to Sirkadji High Security Prison near the Casbah, the ancient heart of old Algiers. Shortly afterwards, the FIS was outlawed.

Last week, the FIS executive in exile said in a statement that Mr. Hachani should be released. "This would certainly contribute to an easing of tensions required to promote the necessary climate for a return to peace and stability," the statement said.

UAE drafts anti-laundering law

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has drafted its first anti-laundering law following a surge in such illegal activity worldwide and drug smuggling in the oil-rich Gulf country.

The law, published in the local daily Al Bayan on Monday, is part of major reforms planned in the financial sector in a drive to forestall any malpractice and prevent a repetition of fresh banking crises.

"We have been informed of those new laws and we think they will further consolidate the banking sector," a UAE bank manager said.

The new regulations have been drafted by the Central Bank, which presented them to a special cabinet committee ahead of their official endorsement.

It was the first time that banking laws in the UAE include a section about money laundering, which would make the emirates the first Gulf state to have well-defined legislations on such narcotic-dominated activity.

The new law authorised the Central Bank to take any measures to combat laundering, including greater access to the bank files.

It also warned bank staff who violate the bank's secrecy or its trust in them, and any person providing relevant information will have immunity against prosecution.

"The Central Bank has the right to take any decisions and give instructions to the competent parties regarding the necessary measures to be taken concerning the activities associated with money laundering," the law said.

UAE police officials have repeatedly called for enactment of laws to fight money laundering after a surge in such operations worldwide.

It was not clear whether the new laws have been prompted by any laundering activity in the UAE but the country, a major regional financial and commercial centre, has been hit by increasing narcotic-trafficking operations.

Most of them originated from Pakistan and Iran, which are key narcotic supply sources.

"The UAE needs such laws to prevent illegal activities by its banks given its large number of banks and foreign workers," a UAE banker said.

The UAE has 47 banks, including 28 foreign units. They have more than 300 branches although it has a relatively small population of 2.3 million, including nearly 1.5 million Asians and other expatriates.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Saudi advisory council starts new term with 90 members

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabia's Advisory Consultative Council started its second term on Monday with 60 new members. The names of the new members, mainly professional men and retired army officers, were announced Sunday. Saudi Arabia expanded the council, or Majlis Al-Shura, to 90 members from 60, and half of the council's previous members were replaced. The council's speaker, Sheikh Mohammed Ben Jubair, and Deputy Abdullah Naseef, retained their posts. The all-male council was set up in 1993, and its members are appointed by King Fahd. It doesn't have legislative powers but makes recommendations to the king for possible action. Of the six Gulf Arab nations, only Kuwait has an elected parliament. The United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain all have appointed advisory councils like Saudi Arabia.

Egypt to deport 22 foreign women illegally in country

CAIRO (AP) — Twenty-two African and Asian women, most of whom worked as maids, are to be deported for being in the country illegally, Egyptian authorities said Monday. The women were rounded up Sunday and are to be deported within the next 48 hours, according to police and immigration officials. Police have launched a crackdown against illegal women residents, and a total of 213 have been deported in recent months. Most entered the country legally, generally to serve as domestic help for wealthy Egyptian families or foreign businessmen. But some overstayed their visas, taking jobs the government wants for Egyptians or working as prostitutes. The 22 women to be deported include seven Ethiopians as well as Indian, Philippines and Sri Lanka nationals.

Iraq and Sudan sign oil agreement — papers

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq and Sudan have signed minutes to follow up the implementation of a joint oil agreement, Iraqi newspapers said on Monday. They said the pact focused on exploration, establishment of refineries and training of Sudanese experts in the Iraqi oil industry. "Iraqi Oil Minister Amir Muhammad Rasheed and the (visiting) Sudanese Energy and Mining Minister Ewadh Ahmed Jaz signed the agreement," the government newspaper Al Jumhuriya said. The paper gave no details but said the signing ceremony was attended by the newly appointed chairman of the Military Industrialisation Commission, Abdulwahab Mulhawish, and Undersecretary of Oil Taha Hamoud. Mr. Jaz met President Saddam Hussein Saturday and handed him a message from Sudanese leader General Umar Hassan Bashir. Iraq is banned from exporting its oil under United Nations sanctions imposed after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Under a deal signed with the U.N. Iraq has been allowed since December to sell \$2 billion worth of oil over six months to raise money to satisfy Iraqis' urgent needs. Sudan sympathised with Iraq in the U.S.-led Gulf war which drove Iraqi troops out of Kuwait.

Sudan motorway pile-up kills 62

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sixty-two people were killed and 30 seriously hurt in a highway pile-up south of Khartoum, Sudanese state-run television reported late Sunday. It said a pick-up truck tried to overtake another car, near Kamlin, about 95 kilometres southeast of here, but collided with a passenger bus and a lorry travelling in the opposite direction. The truck and the bus caught fire, according to a witness, who said local people tried to put out the blaze with dust and water, knowing there was no fire station in the area. Seven people were pulled from the blazing bus. Of the dead, 16 were children. There was no immediate clarification as to how many people were in each of the vehicles. Major General Al Hussein Abdul Karim, Sudan's state minister of roads and communications, who went to the scene, blamed "irresponsible driving" for the accident, which the television said was the worst in 10 years.

Egyptian press attacks Netanyahu's peace 'of pigs and cows'

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt's press on Monday launched a violent attack on Israel over a series of incidents defaming religious figures and accused Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of seeking "peace of cows and pigs." "One of the stupidest of Netanyahu's many acts of idiocy is his decision not to resume peace negotiations until the Palestinians cease their violence," wrote Said Sonbol, editorialist with government newspaper Al Akhbar. "What peace is Netanyahu speaking of? The peace of cows or the peace of pigs?" Mr. Sonbol said, in an allusion to posters plastered by Jewish extremists in the West Bank town of Hebron depicting the Muslim prophet as a pig and a magazine photo-montage of the Virgin Mary with a cow.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:35 French Programmes
16:00 Super Sport Folie
16:30 Drug House
17:00 Square One TV
17:15 Album Show
18:00 French Programmes
19:00 News in French
19:30 News Headline
19:35 Coach
20:00 Tilt
20:30 Encounter
21:10 Doc. — Nature of Things
22:00 News in English
22:30 West Beach
23:15 Drug Wars

PRAYER TIMES

03:58 Fajr
05:32 (Sunrise) Duha
12:41 Dhuhur
16:21 Asr
19:50 Maghreb
21:23 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweflith, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church
Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation

Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366

Anglican Church Tel. 652826.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Amman International Church Tel. 5516245

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Relative warm weather conditions will prevail with temperatures slightly higher than average and winds northwesterly moderate. On Wednesday, temperatures are expected to drop becoming around average. In Aqaba, it will be hot, winds northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman 21/34

Aqaba 26/41

Deserts 20/37

Jordan Valley 25/41

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 33, Aqaba 40 Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY AMMAN:
Dr. Hanna Mansour 750197
Dr. Afif Shukri 898863
Dr. Khalil Ramadan 774397
Dr. Sa'ad Tawfik 782325

Ferdows pharmacy 778336

Al Asena pharmacy 637055

Al Sabani pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Nairoukh pharmacy 623672

Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Qam 281484

Dr. Quds pharmacy (-)

ZARQA:

Dr. Rafiq Atallah 994424

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Dept. 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 650341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage Com-

plaints 897467

Amman Municipality Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 0853200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussain Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity 642816

Akileh Maternity 642411/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Mulhas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 607071

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Munasher Hospital 667279

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6

Italian, Al-Mohajreen 777101/3

Al-Bashir 775111/26

Army, Marja 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital 674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)83323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560

Bn Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)980990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital 02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital 02)272275

Ibn Al Nafes Hospital 02)247100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA AIRPORT ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

06:45 Beirut (RJ)

09:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

12:15 Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)

12:25 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)

13:00 Geneva, Brussels (RJ)

13:10 Paris (RJ)

13:15 Cairo (RJ)

14:05 London (RJ)

14:05 Madrid (RJ)

21:25 Jeddah (RJ)

21:40 Damascus (RJ)

21:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

22:00 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

22:25 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

18:30 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)

Other Flights

04:30 Riyadh (SV)

10:00 Cairo (MS)

13:00 Riyadh (SV)

17:40 Istanbul (TK)

19:05 Kiev (SU)

20:15 Dubai (EK)

22:50 Tel Aviv (LY)

23:50 Aden (IY)

01:55 Bucharest (RO)

02:25 London (GA)

02:30 Amsterdam (KL)

03:08 Rome (AZ)

04:00 Athens (OA)

04:25 London (BA)

04:00 Rome (AZ)



TRH Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, the Regent, Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein, Prince Hamzeh Ben Al Hussein, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, Prince Zeid Ben Shaker, Prince Ali Ben Nayef and Imam of the Royal Court Ahmad Helayel Monday visit the tomb of the late King Talal Ben Abdullah on the 25th anniversary of his death. They recited verses of the Holy Koran and laid wreaths by the tomb (Petra photo)

'Israel not committing to peace agreements' — visiting European MP

AMMAN (Petra) — Visiting European Parliament member Magda Aelvoet Monday said she was convinced that Israel was not committing itself to the implementation of agreements it has signed with the Arab parties in the Middle East peace process.

She stated her belief that these accords must be respected so that a just and comprehensive peace can be achieved.

During meetings with the

head of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Senate Thouqan Hindawi and Head of the Arab and International Affairs Committee of the Lower House Fawzi Toumeih, Ms. Aelvoet described the peace process as an integrated activity whose effects are far-reaching.

Competent institutions in the United States and Europe ought to intervene and save the region from violence, she added.

Mr. Hindawi told Ms. Aelvoet, who started a five-day working visit to Jordan on Saturday, that the European role is vital to the success of the peace process and important in overcoming obstacles placed by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his ruling Likud Party.

The present situation calls for immediate intervention by the United States and Europe, he added.

Dr. Toumeih also

requested that Europe exert pressure on Israel that the latter comply with the requirements of the peace process and added that the United States ought to be fair and unbiased in its role.

He outlined the Kingdom's parliamentary and democratic life as well as its current implementation of economic reforms.

Jordan is in need of further European assistance so that it can complete these reforms, he concluded.

First Kuwaiti plane to land in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — The first Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) plane will land in Amman tomorrow, following an agreement signed between Kuwait and Jordan last month.

The two countries resolved that their national air carriers might resume scheduled flights following a hiatus of seven years.

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Vice President for Public Relations Munib Toukan Monday affirmed that KAC will make semi-weekly flights to Amman from Kuwait.

Royal Jordanian will commence the first of two weekly flights to Kuwait from Amman on Thursday, he added.

This is a temporary arrangement pending a study and re-evaluation of the volume of air transport between the two countries, he said.

The two airlines secured approval for their respective flights from civil aviation authorities in Kuwait and Jordan, after technical teams finalised details related to the agreement.

The official approval followed a four-member Kuwaiti delegation visit to Jordan last month.

The two airlines suspended flights following the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, but contacts between the two airlines were not disrupted, according to RJ officials.

Kuwait has as yet to restore full diplomatic ties with the Kingdom which had been seen as sympathising with Iraq during the Gulf War.

Jordanian researcher wins TWAS prize

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian researcher Ahmad Rehayel won the 1996 Third World Academy of Science (TWAS) prize in honour of a research paper entitled "Elliptic Surfaces in Mathematics."

The \$2,000-prize was presented at a special ceremony held at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and is annually conferred by the Italy-based TWAS, onto persons from the Third World who effect remarkable achievements in scientific research.

RSS President Said Allough delivered a speech in which he affirmed that TWAS considers scientific progress as the basis of all economic and social progress.

RSS is entrusted with

forwarding the research work of candidates and presenting prizes to those who make unique contributions in the fields of mathematics, physics, chemistry and biology.

Dr. Rehayel is currently working in the University of Qatar and the prize was received on his behalf by his brother Dr. Hussein Rehayel who teaches at Yarmouk University.

According to the RSS, 21 other persons submitted a total of 68 research papers.

The TWAS prize was established in 1993.

International forum covers women's political, domestic empowerment in the Arab World

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Arab women from eight countries gathered Monday to exchange experiences and discuss various means of strengthening women's participation in political and domestic forums.

In the four-day seminar, approximately 25 women from various sectors of Arab societies will present reports related to Arab women's participation in parliamentary elections, political party involvement, civic issues, as well as those encouraging women to enter politics in the Arab World.

During the opening ceremony, Director General of Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre (UJRC) Hani Hourani maintained that "women in the Arab World have a joint problem which concerns their political participation and daily lives."

"Arab women's participation in political life is modest, yet, we have to admit that women have field and practical experience in political participation," Mr. Hourani said. "We must take advantage [of that experience] to study their participation in their individual societies."

According to the director general, 22 papers will be presented in the seminar to reflect recent experiences and issues concerning Arab women's participation in political life.

Topics will include field studies, statistics, and parliamentary elections participation, he added.

The event, organised by Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre (UJRC) in cooperation with the Ford Foundation, was inaugurated



HRH Princess Ghida Talal, flanked by Ford Foundation Representative Salim Nasr and Director General of Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre (UJRC) Hani Hourani attend opening seminar of a four-day international forum covering various means of strengthening women's participation in political and domestic forums (Petra photo)

ed by HRH Princess Ghida Talal, who deputised for Her Majesty Queen Noor. Saleem Nasr of the Ford Foundation explained that the seminar is regional as it combines social, political and scientific aspects, "and facilitates practical exchanges, analysis, determination, reviews of the past and plans for the future."

During the morning session, participants discussed a paper entitled "Towards a new vision to highlight Arab women's political participation," presented by Ishaq Jaid, of Beirut University, in Palestine.

In her paper, Dr. Jad expostulates Arab women's groups' criticism of a male-dominated society as well as their demands to reconsider commonly accepted beliefs in institutes therein.

Member of the Yemeni House of Representatives

Oras Sultan Naji, presented a paper on her experience in the last Yemeni elections in which she reviewed campaign procedures she used to secure herself a seat in the Yemeni parliament.

Three papers were presented by Egyptian professors during the evening session. They were entitled: "Political attitudes and values of Egyptian women," presented by Salwa Sha'rawi, of the American University in Cairo; "Egyptian women and political participation," prepared by Niven Mass'ad, from Cairo University; and "Intervention on Egyptian women's political participation."

The papers focused on the standards and position of Egyptian women, a general view of Egyptian women's participation in political life, and the role of

women as parliamentarians and party members.

Participants hail from Lebanon, Palestine, Yemen, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Jordan. Contributing researchers are visiting from Norway, Sweden and the United States.

Today, participants will discuss seven reports covering women in parliamentary elections, women and political parties, women's participation in the institutions of the Palestinian National Authority, experience in the Palestinian elections and the legislative assembly.

The evening session will include topics on the political trends of Jordanian women and their participation in the public sphere, decision-making and political experience.

The seminar is convening at the Forte Grand Hotel.

Fire engulfs fabric store in Ras Al Ain

AMMAN (J.T.) — A fire early Monday engulfed a large fabric store, located in the Ras Al Ain district of Amman, and caused heavy losses, according to a Civil Defence Department (CDD) spokesman.

The fire raged for seven hours after its discovery at three in the morning and consumed highly flammable materials and fabric.

CDD fire engines from Amman, Zarqa and Madaba joined in fighting the fire which, apparently started in the basement and spread quickly to higher floors of the building, according to the official.

The CDD is conducting an investigation into the incident to ascertain the exact causes of the fire, he added.

The CDD official requested that both the public as well as companies refrain from entering any newly-constructed



CDD fire fighters assist man while fighting blaze in the Ras Al Ain district of Amman (Petra photo)

building without prior approval.

Strict adherence to CDD instructions regarding

safety precautions is also recommended, he added.

HRH Prince Ali Ben Al Hussein supervised fire

fighting operations while CDD director Theeb Maani directed work. No casualties were reported.

WHAT'S GOING ON

LECTURE

"Mummification: Importance, Resources and Documentation" by Dr. Khalaf Tarawneh (in Arabic) at the Friends of Archaeology Centre, at 6:30 p.m. (Tel. 696682)

EXHIBITIONS

Photography exhibition by Jean Kassey, at the French Cultural Centre, until July 29.

Paintings by Ali Al-Ghoul, at Greater Amman Municipality Cultural Department, Ras Al Ain, until July 31.

Silver jewelry exhibition, at the Jordan Design and Trade Centre, of Noor Al-Husseini Foundation, until July 20.

Paintings by contemporary Iraqi artists entitled "Ecology and Environment," at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until July 12 (except Tuesdays).

Contemporary Arab artists exhibition, at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until July 12 (except Tuesdays).

Wadi Rum potential backdrop to adult adventure TV programme

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A leading French producer of televised adult adventure games is looking at Wadi Rum as a potential location for its next series of games.

"We would like to create a new series of programmes based in Wadi Rum. This new game will be called Desert Forges," says Brice Auboyneau, production director of the Expand Images Group (EIG).

Examples of earlier EIG productions are "Fort Boyard," "Treasure Hunt," and "La Carte aux Trésors."

Television audiences in the Kingdom are more familiar with "Fort Boyard" as it has been aired on Jordan Television's Channel 2.

More than 450 episodes have been made of "Fort Boyard" and it has been broadcast in 53 countries over the past eight years.

Jordan was selected among four countries in Africa and the Middle East due to the presence of Wadi Rum.

Set designer Marc Demize believes that Wadi Rum provides a splendid backdrop for the games. In building the forge itself, Mr. Demize says he will use materials and colours to give an authentic impression blending in with the landscape of Wadi Rum.

"The forge will have to look like a natural extension of Wadi Rum," Mr. Demize explains.

All the games follow a basic pattern — only the settings change to offer new challenges, he added.

In Desert Forges four contestants, two women and two men, will compete against each other.

"It is not only a physical endurance test, but also an intellectual one," according to Pierre Fortolano, artistic director.

He explains that these games are set at two levels: Physical endurance and intel-

lectual processes.

Unlike previous shows, this programme will concentrate to a great extent, on the intellectual aspect of the games.

As in previous shows, contestants will include celebrities such as Olympic champions and singers ranging between 20 to 33 years of age.

The desert background to the games will incorporate an added sense of mystery and danger, the producers say. "It is essential to make the audience feel that they are living an adventure."

The environment of Wadi Rum is just what we were looking for: a mixture of the mythical and the symbolic," Mr. Fortolano maintains.

Mr. Demize explains that such games would be unsuccessful if they were to take place in a studio.

"These games involve a lot of effort and exertion on the part of the contestants, we would not want a wall crashing down on them as they attempted to climb it," Mr. Demize asserted.

It is believed that this series could take up to five years to complete in Jordan, including six to nine months to construct the set alone.

"We want to work with a Jordanian team," Mr. Auboyneau emphasised. "We will be approximately 150 people on the set and look forward to interacting with Jordanians."

The team has already met with Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, Akel Biltaji, who has given them his full support.

Mr. Biltaji described the project as an excellent opportunity for Jordan.

"We should ensure the realisation of this project," he told the Jordan Times.

Magazine to focus on Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — As a complement to the Jordan Season in Paris, the next issue of the Institut Du Monde Arabe's quarterly magazine Qantara will feature articles on the Kingdom.

This 80-page magazine deals with the Arab and Mediterranean cultures through the writings of specialists on these regions.

According to Qantara's Editor-in-Chief François Zabbal, the issue on Jordan will offer readers something more than the archaeological exhibition inaugurated in June at the Institut.

Around 20,000 copies of Qantara will be distributed in Europe and the Arab World, Mr. Zabbal stated.

According to Mr. Zabbal, a wide range of subjects such as women, calligraphy and history are usually included under a general theme. The issue on Palestine, for instance, dealt with the arts, famous Palestinian figures, and history.

1.8 m pills seized in major drug bust

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Anti-Narcotics Department Monday confirmed its raid of a major drug trafficking operation, seizing 1.8 million pills with an estimated street value of \$14 million.

Department Director Colonel Nazih Shreideh told a press conference that the smugglers transported the pills from Turkey via Syria.

"We were tipped when the car left Turkey and entered Syria, and again when the vehicle entered Jordan," Col. Shreideh stated.

The smugglers hid the drugs in a house located in the northeastern part of the

Kingdom, he added. "Our department maintained close and constant watch over the house where the pills were hidden pending their transfer to a neighbouring country," he affirmed.

According to Col. Shreideh, department teams raided the house, arresting the owner and his wife and seized the drugs.

Police are now investigating others possibly involved in the case who he described as Jordanians with previous criminal records.

Jordan Television quoted Col. Shreideh as stating that between June 15 and

July 7, his department teams handled 24 drug trafficking cases and have arrested 67 suspects, both foreign and Jordanian, involved in such.

The department has received information that Artine drug pills are most commonly offered to youth in Zarqa, he stated.

"We have intensified our efforts and succeeded in arresting 15 suspects," Col. Shreideh maintained. "We have referred the group to court for trial."

The street value of one Artine drug pill is JD 8, he said.

Save water — every drop counts...

Cambodia's Hun Sen in control; Ranariddh to lead resistance

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodia's Second Prime Minister Hun Sen took complete control of Phnom Penh and its outskirts Monday, but his ousted rival Prince Norodom Ranariddh vowed from France to organise resistance.

Troops loyal to Prince Ranariddh pulled out of their Tang Krasang Base near Phnom Penh Airport overnight, leaving Mr. Hun Sen's forces unopposed.

First Prime Minister Prince Ranariddh said his rival had ousted him from power and vowed to organise resistance against Mr. Hun Sen.

"Now that he has succeeded in his coup d'etat, he says he has power and legitimacy," Prince Ranariddh said in an interview with the newspaper *Le Monde*. "The resistance will now be organised inside and outside Cambodia."

The casualty count from the fighting was difficult to determine, but one government official said it was as high as 150. He could not say how many were dead or wounded, but hospital sources said at least 12 people had been killed in two days of fighting in Phnom Penh.

The rest of the country appeared quiet Monday. But an official loyal to Prince Ranariddh in the northwest-

ern city of Battambang said there had been a brief clash between the two sides there early Monday.

A curfew was to go into effect at 8 p.m. (1300 GMT) in Phnom Penh for the third day.

Mr. Hun Sen said in a radio broadcast late Sunday that Prince Ranariddh, his uneasy coalition government partner since the 1993 elections, was a "traitor and a thief" and that the prince no longer held the post of first prime minister.

Prince Ranariddh left Cambodia Friday, the eve of the fighting. He said he fled his homeland before the fighting began on the advice of his generals.

In his radio broadcast, Mr. Hun Sen also ruled out any intervention by King Norodom Sihanouk, Prince Ranariddh's father, who is in Beijing undergoing medical treatment.

As fighting raged in Phnom Penh over the weekend, the king called for both sides to visit him in China to try to resolve their differences. But Mr. Hun Sen said that would not be necessary.

"It is heard that the king proposes to have reconciliation in Beijing," Mr. Hun Sen said. "It is too late and it is not necessary. Everything is over."



Cambodian soldiers loyal to Second Prime Minister Hun Sen watch a factory burn beside an armoured personnel carrier in Phnom Penh on Sunday. Fighting between forces loyal to Cambodia's co-premiers, Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen clashed again today leaving Phnom Penh residents in panic (Reuters photo)

The fighting erupted Saturday when Mr. Hun Sen sent his forces against Prince Ranariddh's men. Mr. Hun Sen said the action was necessary because Prince Ranariddh's commandos had been smuggling

defectors from the Khmer Rouge guerrilla group into the capital to boost their troop strength.

Fighting was light Monday. Bursts of small arms fire were heard intermittently around the capital.

Residents could travel freely through the city centre, but many shops and government offices remained closed. Shoppers reported exorbitant prices. State television, which has always been controlled by

Mr. Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party (CPP), showed pictures of abandoned, bombed-out buildings where men from Prince Ranariddh's Royalist FUNCINPEC party had holed up over the weekend.

The French embassy was among the buildings damaged Sunday. A shell destroyed the offices of the ambassador and the military attaché, an embassy official said.

No flights in or out of Phnom Penh were expected Monday, an airport security official said. One aviation source in Phnom Penh said the airport runway had been damaged by shellfire and it was doubtful that commercial airlines could land.

Keo Sopha, director general of the Civil Aviation Authority, said he hoped the airport would be open by Wednesday.

"Last night, illegal forces controlled the airport and broke equipment and looted because they were drunk," he said, referring to forces loyal to Prince Ranariddh. "Now government troops control it again and we will start repairs. We hope to open tomorrow or the day after."

On Monday morning, the airport, shops, houses and warehouses in the area were looted by soldiers, witnesses said.

"Yesterday soldiers, today robbers," said one resident in the area. "FUNCINPEC soldiers took all the duty free and now CPP soldiers are taking what's left," said an airport worker.

Soldiers and civilians also looted warehouses on the airport road and were seen driving off in new cars and on motorbikes. Others were carrying off televisions and appliances.

Military police and soldiers later tried to restore order, firing shots in the air to disperse crowds, witnesses said.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said he was consulting his colleagues in the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) about a possible meeting on Cambodia.

Cambodia, Laos and Burma are due to become full members of the group at the end of July, but Philippine Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon said ASEAN could still change its mind.

"That decision could still change depending on how bad the situation turns out," he told reporters.

Malaysia's Acting Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said the ASEAN position on Cambodia had not changed "because the commitment has already been made."

ASEAN groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Sri Lanka further tightens security after assassination

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lanka has further strengthened already tight security arrangements in the capital Colombo following the assassination of a senior Tamil legislator by separatist rebels, police said.

Deputy Police Inspector General T.B. Dissanayake said more searches were being carried out to round up suspected members of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) who may be planning attacks here.

Mr. Dissanayake said the measures were purely "precautionary" and taken be-

cause of fears that the LTTE may mark their "Black July" to commemorate those killed in the anti-Tamil riots here 14 years ago.

Police headquarters has already issued pictures of a dozen suspected Tiger suicide bombers who are believed to have infiltrated the capital to carry out attacks.

Police said the LTTE marked the 10th anniversary of their first suicide bombing Saturday by assassinating a moderate Tamil politician, Arunachalam Thangathurai, 61, in the northeastern port town of Trincomalee.

Five suspects have already been arrested in connection with the killing of Thangathurai, police said. Five others were also killed together with the MP during a bomb attack Saturday at a school ceremony.

On the eve of last year's Tiger suicide bombing anniversary, a woman strapped with explosives blasted herself in front of Housing Minister Nimal Siripala De Silva in the northern Jaffna Peninsula.

The minister escaped with injuries but the blast killed the region's top military commander, Ananda Hamangoda, and 21 other people.

Since the first attack, Black Tigers, or LTTE suicide cadres, have claimed a steady toll and are also accused of killing the former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in May 1991 and Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa two years later.

Tiger guerrillas regard their suicide bombers as key weapons in their separatist war for an independent homeland in the island's northern and eastern regions.

More than 50,000 people have been killed in fighting over the past 25 years.

Over 300 detained in Karachi

KARACHI (AFP) — Police have detained more than 300 people in Karachi in a crackdown on violence and crime in Pakistan's largest city, police officials said Monday.

Political activists from various parties are also among those rounded up in the operation which followed the killing of a senior government official here Saturday, they said.

They were picked up in police raids from their homes or hideouts in the sprawling port city, a police official said.

The detained political activists belong to Pakistan People's Party (PPP) of former Premier Benazir Bhutto and a splinter group, the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), as well as its breakaway faction and other groups, police said.

About a dozen illegal weapons, including Kalashnikov assault rifles, and Stenguns, were seized, he added.

The chief of Karachi Electricity Supply Corp. (KESC), Malik Shahid Hamid, was gunned down by unidentified assailants in an ambush.

The widow of Hamid has lodged a complaint with the police blaming MQM for the assassination of her husband, a charge denied by the ethnic-based party.

MQM, representing Karachi's largest settler Mohajir community, is a partner in the ruling coalition in southern Sindh province, of which Karachi is the capital. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's party leads the coalition.

According to police around 250 people, including dozens of political activists, have been killed in Karachi in the past four months.

Meanwhile, one person was killed and seven injured Monday when an explosion destroyed a house in downtown Karachi, Pakistan's largest city, police and witnesses said.

Bomb disposal expert Moenuddin said after examining the site that the blast was "in all probability" caused by "explosive material."

Walls of surrounding dwellings were also damaged in the explosion in Azam Nagar, a poor neighbourhood in the sprawling violence-plagued port city.

The blast occurred on the first floor of the house killing the tenant said to be a street vendor, tearing off his hand and a leg, police said.

Anti-Japanese protesters in H. Kong mark China invasion

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong activists marked the 60th anniversary of Japan's invasion of China Monday with protests urging Tokyo to apologise and compensate Chinese victims of World War II atrocities.

Groups of demonstrators staged angry scenes outside the Japanese consulate in Hong Kong which a week ago joined China as a special region after 156 years of British colonial rule.

They gathered in memory of the July 7, 1937 Marco Polo Bridge incident which sparked a full-scale Japanese invasion of China that eventually plunged Asia into World War II.

Hong Kong itself was held by Japan from 1941-45, along with much of China in a huge swathe of Asian territory under Japanese occupation.

Protesters erected a large booth at the foot of a flashy downtown office block housing the consulate and brokerage houses, and displayed dozens of black-and-white photos showing the mass murder of Chinese people.

Other pictures portrayed dazed young girls, victims of rape by Japanese soldiers

in the years between 1931 and 1945, when Japanese aggression tore China apart.

Thousands of passers-by stopped on their way to work or to lunch to gaze at horrifying pictures exposing a bloody chapter in modern history as protesters chanted anti-Japanese slogans.

A small group of police stood by watching.

"We will never forget July 7, we oppose the revival of Japanese militarism," demonstrators shouted into megaphones as they distributed pamphlets.

About 60 activists — elderly war victims, Chinese nationalists, politicians and trade unionists — also took turns to protest in front of the Japanese consulate. They shouted slogans and handed in letters to consulate officials.

Their anger was fuelled by rows in the past year over a disputed group of islands in the East China Sea, called the Diaoyu Isles in China and the Senkaku in Japan, after Japanese rightists erected a lighthouse on the uninhabited island chain.

Japan holds the islands which are also claimed by China and Taiwan.

"Your occupation of the Diaoyu is not good for us and for Asia, we do not wish to see a repeat of World War II," said Ng Yat-Hing from the Reparation Association of Hong Kong.

Albert Ho, spokesman for the Action Committee for Defending the Diaoyu Islands in Hong Kong, urged Japan to apologise.

"Japan has never, as a country, apologised for its war atrocities," Mr. Ho, also a member of Hong Kong's dominant Democratic Party and a former legislator said, demanding immediate action by Tokyo.

The pro-China newspaper *Ta Kung Pao* said in a commentary that atrocities committed by Japan would never be forgotten.

It also urged Tokyo not to forget Japanese civilians who also suffered after American warplanes dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki to end the war.

"Japanese occupation brought terrible hardship to Chinese people and it also hurt Japanese citizens."

"The Japanese government and people should always remember the lessons of history," the newspaper said.

Italy to send army to help quell Naples mobsters

ROME (R) — Italy's Interior Minister Giorgio Napolitano said Sunday he would send troops into the southern city of Naples after an upsurge in mob violence that has shocked the country.

Since the beginning of the year, about 80 people have been killed and dozens injured as the various clans of the Naples mafia known as the Camorra struggle for supremacy.

"We will define within the week a provision for a limited and targeted use of the military in Naples," Mr. Napolitano told state television Sunday night.

The troops "will relieve some several hundred police offi-

cers in Naples who will then be able to deal directly in fighting the Camorra," he added.

The announcement followed another weekend of violence around the port city, with two suspected mobsters gunned down a number of innocent bystanders, including an eight-year-old girl, injured in the shooting.

Newspapers have branded the region "The Far West" as the gangs take their battle onto the streets.

Last month a woman walking home with her six-year-old son was killed by a stray bullet in a gun battle in central Naples.

S. Korean president's son denies bribery charges

SEOUL (R) — South Korean President Kim Young-Sam's second son Monday denied taking bribes at the outset of a trial that political analysts said would further damage the embattled head of state.

On the first day of Kim Hyun-Chul's trial on charges of bribery and tax evasion, he admitted accepting a total of 6.61 billion won (\$7.4 million) from business associates.

But he told the court: "I was never asked for favours in return for money I received. They told me they were giving me money to fund my activities."

The younger Mr. Kim ran a political organisation that helped get his father elected as the country's first civilian head of state in 1992.

Mr. Kim Hyun-Chul is charged with taking kickbacks worth 3.22 billion won in return for favours, including obtaining a cable television licence, a highway fast-food franchise and fixing a court case.

He is also charged with evading taxes on 3.39 billion won he accepted as gifts.

Dressed in pale blue prison garb and with his head lowered, he arrived in the courthouse in a prison bus.

Political analysts said the scandal had dealt a serious blow to President Kim by limiting his political influence ahead of presidential elections in December.

The president is barred from seeking reelection by the constitution.

"The scandal has already made it almost impossible for the president to wield any influence in selecting

his party's candidate," said Kwon Moo-Soo, president of the Graduate School of Politics and Leadership at Seoul's Kookmin University.

"The trial will not have a major additional impact but will keep limiting the president's political power by reminding the people of the scandal."

Kim Young-Sam's ruling New Korea Party plans to elect a presidential candidate on July 21.

The younger Mr. Kim, nicknamed "The Crown Prince" by the local media, took his first kickback shortly after his father came to office in February 1993, according to the prosecution.

Also on trial was a former top intelligence official, Kim Ki-Sup, an associate of the president's son who is charged with receiving 150 million won in bribes to help obtain a lucrative cable television licence.

Mr. Kim Ki-Sup pleaded guilty to the charge.

Prosecutors said Mr. Kim Hyun-Chul evaded taxes of 1.4 billion won on the gifts from businessmen and hid the money in dozens of false-name accounts.

One of his father's first acts on taking power was to ban false-name accounts as part of his anti-graft campaign.

At a separate trial Monday, one of Mr. Kim Hyun-Chul's associates, Park Tae-Joong, pleaded guilty to taking 870 million won from businessmen.

Opposition parties have alleged Mr. Kim Hyun-Chul pressured banks to keep loans flowing to Hanbo Steel, South Korea's



South Korean President Kim Young-Sam's second son Kim Hyun-Chul is shown wearing a prison uniform in this file photo. Mr. Kim went on trial Monday in Seoul on charges of tax evasion and bribery (Reuters photo)

second largest steelmaker.

The steelmaker's collapse in January shed light on a web of corruption involving politicians, bankers and businessmen.

Last month the founder of Hanbo, key presidential aides, politicians and top bankers were jailed for their roles in the Hanbo

scandal. Prosecutors have cleared Mr. Kim Hyun-Chul of any wrongdoing in the Hanbo affair.

South Korean law calls for a maximum penalty of life in jail for tax evasion. Under the bribery charges brought against him, Mr. Kim Hyun-Chul faces a maximum five years in jail.

Russian Progress cargo craft docks at Mir with repair kit

KOROLYEV (AFP) — A Russian cargo craft docked with the crippled Mir space station Monday, bringing vital supplies to repair damage caused by a collision last month, ground control said.

The unmanned Progress craft began docking automatically at 0559 GMT, as scheduled.

The craft was bringing cables which will allow the Mir's three-man crew to restore electric power, severely limited since the smash between Mir and another Progress craft on June 25.

Also being delivered was a sealed door to be installed at the entrance of Mir's Spektr Module, which was

depressurised during the collision and had to be closed off.

Before the crew could begin unloading the Progress, they had to make sure it had made full connection with the mother ship.

Vera Medvedkova, a spokeswoman for ground control at Korolyev outside Moscow, said the door of the Progress would be opened at about 0700 GMT.

"They are checking the seal of the docking. The hardest part is over," she said. "Obviously without that they couldn't have begun repairing the station."

The Progress craft lifted off from Baikonur Cosmodrome in the Central

Asian state of Kazakhstan Saturday.

In addition to the repair kit, it was carrying fuel, food, drinking water and personal gear for American astronaut Michael Foale, who lost his belongings in the Spektr. He also lost many of his scientific experiments.

The cosmonauts on Mir will have to enter the cramped Spektr wearing cumbersome space suits when they carry out the cable and door repairs on July 17-18.

Meanwhile, the third crew member, Foale, will sit ready in the Mir's Soyuz vehicle, which can be used to evacuate the station in an emergency.

Western arms giants launch assault on new NATO market

PARIS (AFP) — NATO's planned expansion to include Eastern European states has Western arms manufacturers drawing up their own battle plans to capture the new market, worth several billion dollars over the coming years.

U.S. companies already supply most of the equipment to forces of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), giving them a clear lead in the race for new business.

But European firms hope to clinch more than a few deals as Eastern European states shed

their Soviet-era arms and equipment and fall into line with NATO's defence systems.

NATO will decide at its summit in Madrid on July 8 and 9 which former Warsaw Pact states to include in the defence alliance. The front runners are Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic.

So far, only a few contracts have been signed, including a \$100 million deal by the French Company Matra, concluded in April, to supply Mistral surface-to-air missiles to Hungary.

Opinion & Analysis

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1974
الصحف المستقلة العربية المنشورة بالانجليزية في الأردن

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Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Taken for a ride

TAKEN A ride in an airport taxi lately? By most accounts of travel weary passengers who have, one would conclude the experience is inadvisable. In general, several faults make for a truly unpleasant ride after hours in the air, long lines at immigration counters with extra waiting periods when VIP passports have of course to be entry-stamped before all other ordinary souls, and later the expected delays at the baggage claim section.

On first sight the condition of most of the taxis makes a passenger wonder whether the ride may turn out to be his/her last. What a bit of maintenance, upholstery and body work would achieve! Next, the unkempt attire, to say nothing of the lack of hygiene in the taxi itself, sends an immediate and unfortunate message to the passenger, be he/she a first-time arrival in Jordan, a frequent, or a citizen or resident of the Kingdom. For the insult to the already injured, the drivers of these taxis often do everything possible to avoid turning on their fare meters. Unknown passengers begin to question about the fare after pleas to turn on the meter fail miserably. The driver, feigning Jordanian hospitality, usually responds, "Whatever you generously wish to pay." Others just go for the jugular and demand, for example, JD 22 for a ride from the Queen Alia Airport to downtown Amman, when one is already five kilometres northbound on the QALIA Airport Road. Virtually trapped the passenger is then subjected to another attack on the senses when the driver lights up a cigarette, and sometimes another and another. There is no reason why any of this should be occurring. Those in charge of the establishment which runs the taxi service would appear not to care or mind the state of affairs; otherwise they must be entirely ignorant of the prevailing situation. Such a transportation business as this has no excuse for sloppy service. It is contemptible that service providers neglect to monitor and attend to the business at hand simply because theirs is the only such business offering this particular service. If the case of the airport taxi service, operated by the Jordan Economic and Social Organisation of Retired Servicemen, is a matter of ignorance of the facts, then perhaps a serious look at the service's management is the first step to correcting this embarrassing situation. It only takes initiative, a grain of integrity, and a desire to do Jordan some justice.

We call ourselves, we like to believe at least, that we are a tourist destination, and we are entitled to that. But we have to do better, not just for tourists, also for ourselves, citizens, who do not want to give business to people in the taxi business, whom we know have to suffer as a result of low fares imposed upon them by the government. A country like Egypt, where true chaos can reign supreme in the transportation field, has found an acceptable solution for the airport taxi mess. Why can't we?

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Rai Monday urged all political groups to take part in the coming general elections and help elect their representatives in Parliament where they can best reflect their views and those of the opposition. Tariq Masarwah said if some groups are boycotting the elections in protest against the elections law, they alone will be the losers because they will not be represented in Parliament where they can influence and bring about a change to that law through parliamentary debate. To bring about a change and repeal the existing one-person, one-vote system requires a democratic struggle within Parliament and not outside, he stressed. One cannot expect a miracle to happen and the law to be changed without deputies debating it and reaching a new formula through democratic means, he continued. The writer said the same thing applies to the presidents of professional associations who could not have resumed the struggle to address unfavourable situations had they not cancelled their resignations and they could have left the field to elements hostile to their cause to impose their ideas on the unions. The writer said that boycotting the general elections means an escape from responsibility at a time when the Jordanian public expects to see a better Parliament performance than the past one since no deputy will be member of the executive authority.

RAKAN MAJALLI, a writer for Al Dustour, said that while all Arab states declare that they support the creation of an Arab common market, they tend to work in the opposite direction. Under the Arab League Charter, the Arab member states are supposed to work in concert to protect their own interests and fight any force or nation that launches aggression on any member state. But the bare fact is that each Arab state maintains strong ties with foreign countries while inter-Arab trade reaches seven per cent, and if the oil factor is removed, the rate drops to two per cent, he noted. The writer said that most Arab states seek to cause harm to other Arab countries' economies so that they can appear in a stronger position and this applies mainly to states that are neighbours. Most of the economic ties and trade relations of all Arab countries are with foreign nations because Arab regimes do not trust one another politically, charged the writer. He said Arab states should first get rid of their hatred to one another and try to manifest genuine solidarity towards each other so as to pave the ground for healthy trade and economic relations, a vital prerequisite for the creation of the aspired common market.

View from the Fourth Circle

Pigs, dogs and the slow slide to political bestiality

SOMETHING SIGNIFICANT, but also ugly and dangerous, is taking place before our eyes this week, this month, in Palestine and Israel: the Arab-Israeli conflict is slowly being transformed from an ideological, territorial and political conflict into a zero-sum, existential battle defined primarily by culture and religion. The once predominant tendency among Arabs and Israelis towards coexistence and compromise with "the other", with the enemy, may be slowly being replaced by an attitude of denial and profanity towards the other. The most severe signs of this have to do with religion — not only religion, but the association of the religion of "the other" with animals.

In Israel, a woman was arrested last week for distributing posters in Hebron that associated the Prophet Mohammad with a pig — a grotesque and blasphemous insult for Muslims and all other people who profess and respect faith. In Amman, a shopkeeper was detained by the police overnight for having put up a sign in his shop that read "No dogs, no Jews", an equally degrading insult that profanes an entire religion and people. Another shopkeeper in Amman was detained by Jordanian police for making known his distaste for Israelis by putting a sign on his shop that read "No Israelis allowed". On the Voice of Palestine radio last week, a Palestinian woman whose daughter was shot in the stomach by Israeli soldiers was quoted as saying, "Our enemies have no mercy and no heart... their hearts are like stone, they are not human beings. They are like animals."

The Israeli and Jordanian governments both took swift legal action against their nationals who insulted "the other", at once detaining them and planning legal action against them. The Israeli leadership publicly denounced the woman who made the pig posters, while Jordanian official sources were quoted in the press as rejecting and expressing distaste for Arab actions that smacked of anti-Jewish anti-Semitism.

Though these are isolated acts by individuals, they do not express only individual sentiments; they certainly reflect wider dimensions of public opinion in Israel, Jordan and Palestine, but to what extent we do not really know. Perhaps we should try to find out. We certainly do know, though, of other troubling signs that reflect the fast deteriorating state of mutual Arab-Israeli perceptions.

The most dramatic — almost exactly 30 years after the June 1967 war which saw Israel and most of its Arab neighbours locked in battle — is the sudden rejuvenation of military and political warfare as the norm of engagement between Zionism and Arabism, between Israel and adjacent Arab states. The television pictures in recent weeks of Israelis and Palestinians showering each other with bullets and pipe bombs have been joined by contin-

ued fighting and death in south Lebanon, anti-Israeli and anti-Jewish sentiments in Jordan and Egypt, continued stalemate in the Syrian-Israeli front and rapidly fading Arab inclinations to hold the Middle East and North Africa economic conference with Israel in Doha, Qatar this autumn.

On the political front, the Israeli government continues to promote the expansion of Jewish settlements and colonies on occupied Arab lands, claims exclusive sovereignty in the religious core of Jerusalem and Hebron, demands 60 per cent of the West Bank and Gaza forever, appoints the biblical zealot-warrior Ariel Sharon to a key policy-making post, officially announces a shoot-to-kill policy in Hebron, and physically destroys Palestinian homes in locations that are inconvenient to the Zionist territorial and national vision of ancestral renewal, strength and perpetuation.

The latest incident was the Israeli military authorities' recent issuing of demolition orders for 17 Palestinian houses. The Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment (Al Haq) calls this Israeli policy "ethnic cleansing", because it aims at "removing the Palestinian population from areas near Israeli military installations, Jewish settlements or the settler by-pass roads... in order to enable the Israeli government to negotiate over 'empty' land and thus force further concessions from the Palestinians." Some of the houses to be demolished have building permits, others date back to 1954, and those without building permits have requested but been denied building permits by the Israeli occupation authorities.

In the face of such Israeli policies, the Palestinian response is two-fold: physically to fight the Israeli presence, as is happening in Hebron, and on the emotional, psychological and cultural level to deny the fundamental validity or legitimacy of the very notion of Zionism and Israel. One way to do this is to equate Zionism not with racism, as happened in recent decades, but with animals and bestiality. This is not an Arab attempt to check or to counter Zionist ideological or historical arguments; it is an attempt to achieve an even more profound negation of Zionism and Israel as cruel and vicious evils that must be fought to the death. A cycle of moral violence is unleashed, a fight to the finish contemplated.

So, Israelis express unease with recent Voice of Palestine Radio broadcasts that they feel promote "hate-mongering" and "incite" the Palestinians to wage war against Israel; the official Palestine National Authority Information Ministry's Internet site says there is no archaeological or other proof for the Israeli-Jewish veneration of the Western or Wailing Wall as part of the ancient

Jewish temple in Jerusalem; the Arab press in Palestine, Egypt, Jordan and elsewhere carries stories about how Israel has been undermining Arab society and culture by, among other things, introducing into the occupied territories chewing gum that stimulates women's sexual desires (and thus turns them into prostitutes who can be used by the Israeli intelligence services), Israeli prostitutes infected with the AIDS virus, and spoiled food that will poison Palestinians. The latest shot in this cultural and religious war is the accusation by Palestinians that Israeli troops on Sunday ransacked a Palestinian school in Hebron and tore up copies of the Koran.

It does not matter much if these incidents and accusations are true, partly true, or false; it matters only that the accusations are made, for they manifest deeper fears and ignorance that drive people's actions. The cumulative impact of all these incidents should be taken by Arabs and Israelis alike as a flashing warning light that alerts us to possible danger ahead — a danger far bloodier and greater than anything we have suffered to date.

The signs of the last two weeks suggest that the prospects for tolerance and coexistence among Arabs and Israelis are slowly being replaced by denial and negation as the primary weapons of self-defense in the Arab-Israeli conflict: Arabs angry at Israeli government actions do not only equate Jews with animals, they also seek to inflict a greater hurt by publicly ridiculing one of the most meaningful dimensions of Jewish national and religious self-identification — the sanctity to Jews of the Western Wall in Jerusalem. This is not a lesson about history; it is a historical gladiatorial epic.

We are now on a slippery road that has taken us from political negotiation to cultural and religious negation; the next step is a long and painful slide towards blindness; we will no longer even see one another as negotiating partners, neighbours, or enemies, for the other will no longer exist as a human being in our minds. And when we do not see the other, we can do anything we want to the other, including the most horrible forms of racism, terror, collective killings, ethnic cleansing, and genocide. The frightening thing about such a potentiality is not that it might happen to Jews or Arabs, but that it might happen once again to Jews and Arabs in a Middle Eastern landscape that has largely been defined throughout history as the only place where Jews and Arabs were truly at home, and where they almost always defined their home in terms of cultural and religious pluralism, tolerance, respect and even some solidarity. The really frightening thing about Arabs and Israelis using animal symbols to degrade one another is that this ultimately threatens to turn us both into animals.

NATO — recreating 'Central Europe'

By Gwynne Dyer

THERE'S NO escaping history. When the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation finishes absorbing the new members who will be invited to join at the NATO summit in Madrid on 7-8 July, NATO's eastern frontiers will be close to where the eastern borders of the 'Central Powers' — Germany and the Austro-Hungarian empire — ran in 1914.

What is being recreated in Madrid is Central Europe. For half a century after 1945, when the Yalta pact divided Europe down the middle, there was only "Western Europe" (the U.S. zone of influence) and "Eastern Europe" (the Soviet zone of control). But that did not reflect the economic, cultural and historical reality, and it has not survived the collapse of Soviet power.

The other lost distinction that is now visible again is the profound gulf between Central Europe and the Balkans. NATO will certainly ask Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary to join, and some members would also like to invite Slovenia and

Romania, but nobody is talking about Serbia, or Albania, or Bulgaria. The Balkans is a different world, where tyranny still clings on and gun-rule and ethnic violence are endemic.

The "debate" over which countries will be asked to join is mostly a charade. The United States has openly said that it wants only three new members, at least in this first wave: absorbing the 60 million people in Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary is quite enough for now. Slovenia and Romania may have the support of more than half the other 15 NATO members, but that is irrelevant.

"We have to find a compromise between the massive support for five new members and the massive position of the Americans," said German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel on July 5. But compromise is actually spelled surrender. "I think there will be some lively discussion of this (at Madrid)," said Sandy Berger, White House national security chief, "but at the end of the day... there will be a consensus of the three." And Romania's Prime Minister Emil Constantinescu has already publicly abandoned hope:

meeting after another ends inconclusively. Ambassadors refer to their capitals while Mr. Solana tries to tie the knots together.

Enlargement was discussed privately by NATO leaders present in Denver at the Group of Seven meeting. But the lineup inside NATO of southern members versus the north is evidence of deep malaise.

The American move was not a particularly tactful one, but the exasperation expressed by some of the allies is equally unjustified. Many had, after all, previously voiced their own preferences, and their arguments in support of their various clients are spurious.

Slovenia's membership is claimed as essential to ensure a land bridge to Hungary so that "the alliance can defend its frontiers." But these are not in danger, nor are they likely to be. And it is hard to see how stability in the Balkans would be advanced by extending

"Romania's first-wave admission to NATO is a closed chapter now," he said in late June.

Why will the United States get its way on this issue with only a feeble show of resistance from its allies? Because after some six months for negotiations with the prospective new members, the completed agreements must be ratified by the governments of all 16 existing NATO members.

In most countries that is a formality, but the expansion treaty will face a major struggle to obtain two-thirds ratification in the U.S. Senate. That is why President Clinton came down off the fence last month and said it bluntly: three new members for now, and no more. And the Europeans privately understand that there is no point in inviting more countries if the Senate then rejects the deal.

"It will be hard enough getting NATO expansion through the Senate as it is, so stick with the countries that have fairly sound economies and well-rooted democracy. Do not muddy the waters by including candidates that were once part of Yugoslavia (Slovenia) or

only recently got rid of a crypto-Communist government (like Romania). And do not upset the Russians, if you can avoid it."

Opposition to NATO expansion in U.S. elite circles is building fast: Four months ago George Kennan, the diplomat whose advice shaped America's basic cold war strategy of "containment", warned that "expanding NATO would be the most fateful error of American policy in the entire post-cold war era."

Just last week 46 ex-senators and other senior members of the U.S. foreign policy establishment wrote Clinton an open letter warning that NATO enlargement would undermine the democrats who now rule Russia. Will it really?

Russian politicians have taken strong stands domestically against NATO's expansion, which brings NATO forces 500 km closer to their own border. "The first lesson of diplomacy is that you do not allow tanks to move towards you," said Gregor Yavlinsky, co-leader of the Yabloko group, "even if the tanks are dressed up in pink with dancing girls on top. I am a Western-oriented politician, but how

could I explain this to people?"

But it is largely a symbolic issue, since no serious person thinks that NATO is planning to attack Russia. And it has been solved, at least for the moment, by mostly symbolic means.

At an American-Russian summit in Paris on May 27, Russian President Boris Yeltsin grudgingly accepted NATO's expansion in return for a Russia-NATO Permanent Joint Council that meets every month. Russian membership in the "Group of Seven" major industrialised countries (now the "G-8"), and a better deal on conventional force limits in Europe.

But why risk annoying the Russians at all, when nobody believes that Moscow wants to or could attack Westwards anyway?

What's the point in bringing these new countries into an alliance whose cold war job ended some years ago? Perhaps it is a mistake, but so far it is not causing truly major problems in Russia, and it does have two huge hidden advantages. The NATO guarantee frees Moscow's former Warsaw Pact satellites from the need to form destabilising secret alliances among themselves

in order to contain possible Russian military pressure in the future. And it forces them to settle their quarrels, in order to be eligible for membership.

NATO, whose members are pledged to defend one who is attacked, do not want new members bring border disputes with them, so candidates are being forced to settle their disputes before joining.

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Enlargement could be NATO's 'death knell'

By Frederick Bonnant

BRUSSELS — The dust has not settled after President Bill Clinton's recent announcement of support for only Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic for North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) membership. The dispute is symptomatic of the state of the alliance.

As NATO leaves further behind the common threat that bound it together for 40 years, differences between member countries have become more acute. But it is enlargement that is most harmful to cohesion.

The decision to invite any candidate has to be made unanimously by all member countries, each of which can therefore halt the process. The United States is only one of 16, albeit, as Secretary-General Javier Solana has remarked wryly, an important one.

The diplomatic dance is in full progress. One council

meeting after another ends inconclusively. Ambassadors refer to their capitals while Mr. Solana tries to tie the knots together.

Enlargement was discussed privately by NATO leaders present in Denver at the Group of Seven meeting. But the lineup inside NATO of southern members versus the north is evidence of deep malaise.

The American move was not a particularly tactful one, but the exasperation expressed by some of the allies is equally unjustified. Many had, after all, previously voiced their own preferences, and their arguments in support of their various clients are spurious.

Slovenia's membership is claimed as essential to ensure a land bridge to Hungary so that "the alliance can defend its frontiers." But these are not in danger, nor are they likely to be. And it is hard to see how stability in the Balkans would be advanced by extending

NATO membership to Romania.

Yet the counterargument that other candidates are "not quite as ready" is equally weak. Romania's democracy is indeed new, but not so far behind that of Poland and Hungary, while Slovenia is considerably closer to a Western-style state than most of the others.

In addition, the maturity of its people is evident in their absence of enthusiasm, regardless of their politicians. In this they are equalled by the Czechs.

That present indifference is likely to turn into active opposition when the real costs become known.

The study by the U.S. Department of Defence that is the basis on which the administration will present enlargement to Congress places the bulk of the estimated \$35 billion cost on the Europeans, leaving a mere \$2 billion for the United States.

With all defence budgets declining radically, the European members may find it difficult to come up with their \$19 billion share, while questions should be asked about the sources for the new members' \$14 billion. In their fragile, inflation-prone economies, such expenditures will weigh heavily on social spending.

They will therefore look to the old allies, in particular the United States, to back their support with financial help, in the form of extended credits or outright aid. That is why the Clinton administration is keen on making the first step a so-called small enlargement.

It is not a small one. Only once in the past has NATO accepted more than one new member at a time, and that, for obvious reasons, was Greece and Turkey in 1952. Meanwhile, the present discussion is mortgaging the future. It is accelerating the enlargement process.

To appease the other

claimants, U.S. officials emphasise — and in this they are supported by all the allies — that the door will remain open. That oft-cited phrase could be the death knell of NATO.

Regardless of precautionary measures to try to slow down the next step — by considerable enhancement of Partnership for Peace status to include partners in operational and force planning — the pressure from those not selected for the first wave will mount to boiling point.

If Slovenia, Romania and Bulgaria are favoured, the Balkans will be outraged at being left behind. And the closer the aspirants get, the more they will feel that they, too, must sit at the inner council table.

But NATO is quite unable to absorb this number of new members. It has not even been able to cope with the French approach and establishment of the new command structure. Rapid

expansion would inhibit decision process to a point where the organisation's credibility would vanish.

This unravelling can be stopped.

The process has reached a stage where, regardless of present dissensions, a member would dare to block it. At least Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic must be invited, to avoid the critical reversal in the democratic development of Central Europe that could result from present failure.

So agreement will be obtained, even if only when NATO leaders meet at the Madrid summit on July 7 and 8. But if NATO is to retain its effectiveness, power, the allies will have to adapt the pace of enlargement to the absorption capacity of the organisation.

The writer is a specialist on NATO affairs. The article above is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

Jordan-Kuwait Bank assembly meetings cancelled

(Continued from page 1)

After the above were disputed, the two meetings were cancelled and all were informed that the board of directors of the Jordan-Kuwait Bank, and upon announcing the cancellations, decided to form a committee to monitor the proper and legal issuing of invitations. Yet upon attending the meeting which was planned for July 6, Mr. Fakhoury's group was surprised that the invitations had not been legally posted and was found that some shareholder authorisations had been accepted while others rejected in a manner that would affect decisions made at both meetings. In order to guarantee that any future meeting will be proper and legal, Mr. Fakhoury said his group will request that the Companies Comptroller and other related official departments to consider the invitation procedures taken at the July 6 meetings illegal and to form a committee to supervise any preparatory procedures for any future general assembly meetings, including the issuing of invitations to shareholders.

Companies Comptroller Luay Musmar stressed the assurance of the Ministry of Trade and Industry that all is consistent with the application of the law in letter and spirit noting that any person who broke the law, whether the Companies Law or any other law, will be punished accordingly.

During a meeting between the Jordan-Kuwait Bank board of directors and the Companies Comptroller at

the Ministry of Trade and Industry Monday, Mr. Musmar said that the cancellation of the previous meeting due to an incomplete quorum was a regular act and that another meeting had been scheduled for July 15 without any further delay.

He added that an authorisation worth five hundred thousand shares that was not listed in bank registers had led to the termination of the general assembly meeting, pointing out that this same authorisation will be listed by the next meeting, which will make the quorum legal.

He said that the posting of invitations is the responsibility of the board of directors and not any other party, noting that the law clearly provides for this.

Meanwhile, concerning news of a possible merger between the Bank of Jordan and the Jordan-Kuwait Bank, Mr. Sartawi said that on many occasions the board of directors of his bank had openly rejected the control of any other bank and that the idea of a merger between his bank and the Bank of Jordan is not an option.

Mr. Fakhoury had recently said that the Bank of Jordan and the Jordan-Kuwait Bank had initially agreed to merge under the name of the Bank of Jordan, after an agreement reached between the Jordan-Kuwait Bank's board of directors and prominent Kuwaiti shareholders in a recent meeting held in Beirut.

However, the Kuwaiti group had changed their mind on this and favoured raising the bank's capital instead.

Israel's premier names other finance minister than Sharon

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Neeman had served as justice minister for two months last year, but stepped down after he was indicted on charges of perjury and obstruction of justice. Mr. Neeman was eventually acquitted.

However, he was blocked from returning to the justice ministry because a Netanyahu ally, Tsachi Hanegbi, had since taken over the job and refused to leave.

It was not immediately clear whether the Mr. Neeman appointment would defuse the crisis between Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Levy, since Mr. Netanyahu said he would consult with Mr. Sharon concerning the peace talks with the Palestinians.

Later Monday, parliament was to vote on motions of no confidence in the government submitted by three opposition parties. Two motions criticised the functioning of the government, and a third dealt with the freeze in the negotiations with the Palestinians.

The vote was to be held late Monday evening, and it appeared unlikely the opposition would win the 61 votes — out of 120 in parliament — to topple the government. Mr. Netanyahu's coalition controls 66 seats in parliament.

In a similar vote two weeks ago, Mr. Levy and the four legislators from his Geshet group, along with six other coalition lawmakers, had abstained to show their anger with Mr. Netanyahu.

Ankara lifts ban on trade with Baghdad

(Continued from page 1)

second-largest trading partner before the Gulf crisis, and has called for the lifting of the sanctions on Baghdad.

Ankara last year asked the United Nations to grant it a special status, like that of Jordan, under which it could buy a limited amount of oil from Iraq in return for food sales. But it has so far received no reply.

The United Nations has in the last few years been tolerating moves by Turkish truck drivers to take food into Iraq and bring small amounts of oil back every day through the Habur border post, the only crossing point between the two countries.

Iraq resumed limited oil sales last December under an "oil-for-food" deal with the United Nations which allows it to sell \$2 billion worth of oil every six months to buy food and medicine.

Most of the oil sold has flowed to the Mediterranean via a pipeline passing across Turkish territory.

Mr. Ecevit, a hardliner in relations with the United States and other Western allies on Iraq policies and the Cyprus problem, on June 30 became deputy prime minister in Conservative Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz' minority coalition government.

Lebanese guerrillas fire rockets into Israel

(Continued from page 1)

innocent civilians and the violation of the truce agreement," a Hizbollah spokesman told AFP.

The Katyusha attack came after five Lebanese civilians were wounded by Israeli shelling earlier in the day in retaliation for the killing of an Israeli army officer in a Hizbollah guerrilla ambush.

Two civilians, Mohammad Dahar Shehade and Mohammad Ayoub, were seriously wounded in the village of Kfar Tebbit in an Israeli artillery bombardment. Earlier, three civilians, including a seven-year-old boy and a teenager, were injured when Israeli mortars pounded a stronghold of the Hizbollah movement.

The shelling, accompanied by a series of air strikes, was in response to the killing of an

Israeli officer and the injury of a militiaman from Israel's allied South Lebanon Army in a Hizbollah ambush near the town of Sojoud in the Israeli-occupied zone.

The civilian injuries prompted Lebanon to lodge a complaint with an international committee monitoring a 1996 ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hizbollah guerrillas in south Lebanon. The truce accord, which ended Israel's 17-day Grapes of Wrath offensive against Hizbollah in Lebanon, bans combatants on both sides from targeting each other's civilians. Hizbollah spearheads an armed campaign to drive Israeli troops out of the buffer zone set up in 1985 in an attempt to prevent attacks by anti-Israeli guerrillas on its northern border.

Region on rebound after centuries in abeyance — Prince Hassan

(Continued from page 1)

betterment of all," the Prince said to an audience that included Hungarian President Arpad Goncz.

The Prince, who offered to host ICANAS's 36th congress in four years time, told the distinguished gathering that while economic globalism is the motto of the day, "regionalism is one such strategy by which the developing countries of the world can generate solutions to universal problems that affect us all."

The Middle East region, the Crown Prince noted, should not only be viewed in terms of "oil, security and Israel" alone. Rather it should be looked at in a comprehensive way and redefined in terms of its needs and its multi-ethnic-religious diversity and pluralism, he said.

Following are major excerpts from the Crown Prince's address to the ICANAS' three-day congress being held at Budapest University:

The patrons of this congress include such distinguished persons as His Excellency President Goncz. They also include His Highness Prince Takahito Mikasa of Japan, whose contributions to oriental studies are widely known and much appreciated. This is more than symbolic. Its significance is that the scope of this congress extends from the Pacific to the Atlantic. It includes the Asian rim of Europe and the European rim of Asia.

My own region has been termed, from a European perspective, the Middle East. But looking at it from Japan, we are the Middle West. We have been for six centuries the hub of cultural and trade exchanges in the vast region extending from Morocco to China. Bilad Al Sham, as we were also known historically, was inclusive of Iran and Iraq.

We, in Bilad Al Sham, strongly believe in openness, pluralism and cooperation towards the development of human civilisation. Bilad Al Sham has always been a vital and vibrant centre for human interaction. It was in Bilad Al Sham that the alphabet was first invented and where different peoples and cultures converged and interacted. Many people took refuge in it in pursuit of freedom and dignified life.

The centrism of its people make it a factor for stability in the region and beyond. That centrism enabled Bilad Al Sham to significantly contribute to human civilisation.

It is fascinating, but perhaps not all that surprising, to read that the first recorded evidence for the existence of the Hungarian peoples was recorded by Muslim travellers and geographers. Islamic geography was the

first academic field to use the term *iqlim* or region to describe the often economically disparate but culturally interconnected districts that made up the Muslim *umma*. And because it continued to look closely at neighbouring societies and to systematically collect information on Asia, Africa and Europe, the intellectual curiosity born out of this cumulative scientific endeavour became regional and humanistic over time.

Islamic geography began to address universal issues pertaining to the existence of different races, the nature of societies and the creation of states. Because of the proximity of medieval European kingdoms to Muslim empires or states, Islamic geography also became the discipline which drew in, and refashioned the world views of Muslims and Christians alike.

What has happened in our time to the trans-regional, collaborative culture that was the defining feature of Mediterranean civilisation in the eighth to sixteenth centuries? The good news is that it is on the rebound after centuries in abeyance; the bad news is that it has taken four hundred years for a common idiom to be found that could serve as a basis for this new foundation.

None of us can change history, especially the history of the cataclysmic wars, large and small, that raged throughout the Mediterranean as Christian Europe and Muslim Asia, faced each other in the pre-modern era, but we can, and we must use the lessons of the past to reinvigorate the present for the betterment of all.

In this respect, may I pay tribute to all of the scholars of oriental and Asian studies, many of whom are assembled here, who have struggled valiantly to redress the situation of this interdisciplinary field after the label, "orientalist," came under attack, rightly or wrongly, from more nativist academic circles.

The controversy over the term, "orientalism" is now behind us. It behooves us to remember that whatever the merits of the argument itself, the exposure of the political, strategic and racist uses to which the term was put under colonialism has functioned largely as a corrective.

Today it is impossible to write knowledgeably of the Arab Middle East without coming to terms with one's own cultural subjectivity. We must take into account the many different literary, philosophical, economic, social and political representations that over the years have predetermined the way we collectively envisage "the Orient."

Obviously, even though these historic biases have been recognised, there is still some way to go before they

are completely overturned. This conference will be of inestimable help in furthering this goal.

Similarly, there is a case to be made for reconceptualising the notion of "occidentalism" to reflect a more balanced and more reflective agenda. While the term is less notorious than that of "orientalism," it too should function as a wake-up call for all those concerned with revitalising the European-Asian relationship.

The nature of the relationship itself has fluctuated throughout history, encompassing war and coexistence, and colonialism, independence. Three years short of the Millennium, it has finally stabilised into partnership of equals, each cognizant of its strengths and weaknesses and each ready to maximise his efforts to help redevelop this most historic of regions, the Mediterranean.

In order to do this, we must be ready to help ourselves as well as others in the region. Because history is a continuum, and we are all inheritors of our often shared past, a wealth of human experience exists to solve endemic and seemingly intractable global problems.

Regionalism is one such strategy by which the developing countries of the world can generate solutions to universal problems that affect us all. The chief problem, however, seems to be to arrive at a consensual meaning to the term itself.

My earlier remarks drew the broad lines of a shared, inclusive culture that was the main feature of Arab-Islamic civilisation. We could begin by contrasting this holistic, rational and universalistic vision with the narrow, limited version of regionalism or globalism in vogue today. In the Arab-Islamic world, globalism was more or less a participatory culture (note the almost inevitable acculturation of Crusaders once they settled down in Palestine).

Nowadays, many consider globalism as Westernism. Notions of democracy, freedom of the individual, the market economy linear progress, and even human rights need not be based solely on a Western reading of world history.

About the only thing truly global about globalism today is that frontiers are eroding under the impact of new technologies and free trade. Is that the same thing as saying the world's cultures and civilisations are meeting on more cooperative terms?

We believe that for a more symbiotic view of regionalism to appear, a common agenda is needed between North and South. In some areas, this has already begun. While the Euro-Arab dialogue attempted to forge bilateral economic and trading links between Europe and various Arab countries

in the seventies, it was not completely successful.

Lately, the Dialogue has become a Process; launched in Barcelona in 1993, the Euro-Med Partnership initiative envisages a serious effort to develop substantial economic, strategic and cultural ties between nations of the Mediterranean. Considering their shared history, the notion that both sides of the Mediterranean have an active role to play in reviving trans-regional associations is only logical.

It is also, may I remind this distinguished audience, reminiscent of earlier post-war security arrangements made between Europe and the United States, and between European countries themselves, the most important of which remains the Helsinki Process.

In fact, the Barcelona Declaration of Principles is almost identical to that of the Helsinki Final Act, and can be seen as a bridgehead towards a comprehensive security framework for the Middle East as a whole.

It behooves us to ask the question: Why is it that the physical proximity that once tied Muslim, Christian and Jew in the medieval Mediterranean in a web of inter-communal relations can no longer restore balance and tolerance today between cultures so similar that they revere the same Abrahamic origins? Why is it that some of us have chosen to retreat into our nationalistic enclaves, determined to resist the ideas and influences of our neighbours, and prepared to foist our narrow and provincial agendas on one another?

In this fast-paced and frenetic world, history must stand for something. It must provide a complex, nuanced vision that transcends today's fear, bigotry and suspicion. We must look to our common heritage to provide us with a more dynamic model for future interaction and cooperation: a heritage built on cultures and civilisations that once approached each other as partners in the same regional cultural endeavour.

That is why Jordan has been for many years promoting interfaith dialogue between Muslims, Christians and Jews. And we are promoting the establishment of a council against anti-Islamism.

It may well be that conferences such as this will act as springboards not only for academic cross-fertilisation but for the furtherance of policy dialogue between world cultures. In this regard, may I reiterate an obvious fact; the present cannot be divorced from the past. We must learn to coexist with both if we are to continue to cross inter-cultural bridges of our own making.

Hungarian president says Jordan's role is vital, pivotal and stabilising

(Continued from page 1)

Prince Hassan envisaged cooperation between these countries starting with the Jordan Rift Valley, that borders Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories, and expanding northwards through Syria and Lebanon to Turkey.

The Prince added that Jordan would draw on the experience of Hungary and other central European countries in developing the Danube basin.

He further noted that smaller countries with similar experiences, like Jordan and Hungary should exchange information and compare experiences.

At parliament, Speaker Zoltan Gal expressed full support for Jordan and the Crown Prince's efforts.

Since the two countries are parliamentary democracies, it should be easier for both to cooperate, Mr. Gal was quoted by a Jordanian delegate as saying.

Mr. Gal pledged full support for Jordan's position at the International Parliamentary Union's conference due to be held in Cairo later this month.

"Hungary will remain committed to developing relations with the Arab

countries, especially moderates like Jordan whose policies are characterised by logic and reason," Mr. Gal was quoted as saying.

The Crown Prince told the speaker that Jordan believes in civic society and is committed to upholding the rule of law and respecting human rights.

In a meeting later on in the day with trade and industrialist leaders, the Crown Prince reviewed Jordan's economic indicators and its liberalisation drive and invited his interlocutors to consider exploring investment in the Kingdom.

During his meeting with the ambassadors of Arab and Muslim nations, the Crown Prince explained in detail Jordan's position regarding the peace process and the final settlement of the Middle East conflict.

Jordan is fully supportive of the Palestinian peoples' quest to regain their inalienable rights, including the right to statehood and Jerusalem as its capital, Prince Hassan told the ambassadors.

Jordan will not move an iota from its principled position in demanding that the Palestinian refugees fulfil their right to return and to be compensated, he said.

And Jordan is ringing the alarm bell against the settlement of refugees in the host countries, the Prince said.

Violence in the occupied Arab territories and the stalemate in the peace process are leading to a growing frustration among the peoples of the region, Prince Hassan said adding that it is unacceptable that the international community should only react when the situation escalates into confrontation.

That is why Jordan would like Europe, a regional power with much interest in the Middle East, to be active in the search for a formula to advance the peace process, he said.

Jordan, therefore, believes in a pro-active policy that keeps all the parties to the conflict, in addition to the U.S. and Europe, fully engaged in talks that aim at ending the current deadlock in the peace talks.

Cooperation among the Arabs, therefore, becomes vital, he said.

Jordan, as a central state in the Middle East region, would like to see more dialogue among the region's states inclusive of Iraq and Iran who are being subjected to the policy of dual con-

tainment by the U.S.

"Dual containment has not contained," Prince Hassan noted.

"Jordan has become the first country in the region to completely remove foreign exchange controls on both current and capital accounts," the Prince said.

"By making our currency fully convertible, we are making it easier for Hungarian businessmen to invest and trade with Jordan."

He said that plans for the Jordan Rift Valley project, the Aqaba free trade zone, among others, will be presented at the Doha Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit that will convene in November and that Jordan will attend.

The Hungarian side, who was also briefed by Minister of Foreign Affairs Fyaz Tarawneh, Minister of Trade Hani Mulki and the Crown Prince's economic advisor Ahmad Mango, expressed interest in investment in Jordan and said they as well will be attending the Doha MENA summit during which they will review Jordanian projects.

Randa Habib's corner

Either black or white; what about grey?

THE OTHER day I conducted my own random survey by asking friends and acquaintances questions concerning optimism and pessimism. The result was most interesting.

It appeared that 50 per cent are optimistic while 50 per cent are pessimistic.

Optimists thought that everything was all right. The peace process? Well, as long as it is not dead and buried, it means it is still alive. So being optimistic by nature, they keep believing in that process.

Amazingly, that same category of people views any event, even bloody or insulting, as a possible incentive to move forward.

For them, for example, any financial international help is a positive step to help boost the economy of the country.

At the other end, the pessimists thought that the situation is terrible. The peace process is clinically dead and kept alive artificially.

Tensions, attacks, insulting slogans are yet another proof of the deadlock in the situation.

As for the economic situation of the country, they think it is terrible. They even believe that Jordan should not accept tiny financial aids. A question of pride, they claim. Even the \$100 million given by the U.S. to the Kingdom should have been rejected because of the discrepancy: Israel is getting \$3 billion.

I forgot to mention that my modest poll showed that the overwhelming majority of the optimists are government officials, while the pessimists are columnists, political activists or women used to nag at home.

It also revealed that the optimists look much younger than their age and adopt a relaxed attitude, even when it comes to clothing.

The moral of the story? This survey proves, if needed, that we are extremists in everything. We believe in black or white, never in grey or striped colours.

So where are the people of the middle of the road? I could not find them. Maybe, as someone once said, for fear of being run over by cars.

Agency for HIV positive models reflects mainstreaming of AIDS

COSTA MESA, California (AFP) — They are gorgeous models — men with bulging biceps, a busty blonde former Playboy centerfold, teenagers with rippling abs — and they are all HIV positive.

They are among 75 models for proof positive, the world's only modeling agency with models willing to go public with their HIV positive status to promote health products to the HIV and AIDS community.

It began in 1994 when Abbot Laboratories contacted Morgan Modelling Agency owner Keith Lewis. The company wanted an HIV-positive model for Advera, a high nutrient drink for people with HIV, the virus that leads to AIDS.

"I am supposed to ask people if they have AIDS and then tell them I am going to put their face in a magazine?" Mr. Lewis recalls thinking loudly in disbelief to himself when the request was first made. "Yeah, right."

But he put out a modeling call and to his surprise about 100 people showed up. Good-looking, healthy people who were willing to publicly state their HIV status. The proof positive agency grew out of that.

Famous models include Ty Ross, the grandson of conservative icon and one-time presidential contender Barry Goldwater, Eileen Getty, granddaughter of oil magnate J. Paul Getty and former Playboy centerfold Rebekka Armstrong.

Some of the models have crossed over to mainstream media, with German Vogue featuring HIV models. Pharmaceuticals advertising in largely gay communities will be in national magazines in a year, Mr. Lewis predicted.

Kevin McDermott, who was a dancer at the 1996 academy awards ceremony, a stuntman for a Levi ad and danced in a Las Vegas revue, recalls his relief at finding work with proof positive.

"This business is about rejection," he said of modeling and acting. "That's what you get most of the time. Put being HIV on top of that and you've got real security issues."

"Being HIV is something you think about when you go to bed and as soon as you wake up in the morning. Here was someone saying, 'It's okay. You're normal.' Keith

made me feel proud and wonderful."

Gretchen Adams, 30, a model and HIV educator said she was glad to be part of any effort that changed the typical image of people with HIV and AIDS as bedridden and wasted.

"I was glad I could be a model. A normal looking woman who can say 'yeah, I have HIV. But HIV is not everything I am,'" said Mr. Adams.

Mr. Lewis said that since the Advera campaign, his business has taken off with forays into providing HIV positive actors for television and movies. But he said there have been public service aspects to his project, too.

The drug manufacturers came to him because they no longer wanted to put disclaimers on their ads, saying the models were not HIV positive. But that trend coincided with changes in the disease.

New drugs and diet are helping to keep HIV and AIDS victims alive for years, sometimes a decade or more. And it has also gone mainstream, spreading most rapidly now among women, heterosexual men and teenagers.

As the disease has evolved, so has proof positive.

"Previously, ads were gay specific. They're not anymore. They've gone so mainstream, it's almost the opposite," he said, noting that his agency is now negotiating for a seven-year-old model for a pharmaceutical company.

Mr. Lewis said it was important to get across to the public — especially the youth — that they could no longer count on the old images of disfigured and wasted men to cue them as to who was carrying the virus.

"When they see those images of wasted men, they think, 'that's not me,' that doesn't look like anyone I know. It can't happen to me," Mr. Lewis said.

But these muscular, shapely and fit-looking HIV models used by proof positive remind them it could be anyone and practicing safe sex is not optional.

"When they see a sexy, hip, healthy looking model saying they are HIV positive, they're going to say, 'That's somebody I went out with last night! That's someone I'd like to meet... That's my friend.'"

Central Bank cuts interest rates

By Suleiman Al Khalidi
Reuters

AMMAN — Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) cut its discount rate Monday after foreign currency reserves soared to record levels, in a move which bankers said would stimulate growth.

The bank cut its discount rate to 8.25 per cent from 8.50 per cent. Repurchase rates on certificates of deposit (CDs), the main instruments of government debt, were also cut to 9.75 per cent from 10.00 per cent, the bank said.

It was the first change in the discount rate for nearly eight years and bankers said the move reflected Central Bank efforts to make interest rate structures more market sensitive.

It follows a drop in yields on he CDs, a key interest rate indicator, since the bank introduced competitive bidding last month to the CD auctions as part of its capital market reforms. Bankers said they anticipated

lending and deposit interest rates would soon match the easing of official rates, stimulating investments and injecting more liquidity into the stock market.

The Amman stock exchange has suffered from a shortage of cash as high interest rates drove small investors to higher yield bank deposits.

"Lowering interest rates shows that investment growth has begun to improve and this will reflect on economic growth in general," said Abdul Qader Dweik, general manager of Housing Bank.

"The drop in yields in CDs is a clear indication that there is sufficient liquidity within the banking system and no doubt it will help banks to reduce rates on deposits and later on lending," Mr. Dweik said.

CD rates had been unchanged for a year and a half but since the first two competitive auctions the average yield on three-month paper has

fallen to 8.52 per cent from a fixed 9.25 per cent and the yield on six-month paper has gone down to 8.75 per cent from 9.50 per cent.

The Central Bank has been encouraged to lower yields on CDs as net foreign currency reserves reached record levels, close to a 1997 target of \$1.050 billion, bankers said.

"After reserves have gone up to over \$1 billion mark, the Central Bank is now capable of meeting all its dollar needs and so took the step to liberalise foreign currency transfers," Mr. Dweik said referring to a decision last week to lift restrictions on foreign currency transfers.

Mr. Dweik said a fall in interest rates on deposits — now ranging between eight and nine per cent — was necessary to allow lending rates — currently at high 14-15 per cent — to drop and help rejuvenate business activity.

Many industrialists have blamed a high interest policy for sluggish

growth in some industrial sectors because of the high cost of borrowing which has dampened investment activity.

The Central Bank maintains an interest rate policy to make dinar-denominated assets attractive and prevent a flow of dinars into dollar-denominated assets.

They say the monetary authorities will aim to keep at least a three to four per cent interest rate differential between the dinar and the dollar interest yields to prevent a switch into the U.S. currency that could undermine its stable exchange rate.

The Central Bank is moving ahead in easing a tight monetary policy by setting an eight per cent target for growth in money supply by year-end, substantially higher than last year.

Bankers say this will inject more available credit after a year in which banks have been putting a tight lid on lending.

UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN INTER. CONTINENTAL HOTELS AND RESORTS AND BMW

Inter. Continental Hotels and Resorts announced the launch of a unique with the luxury car-maker BMW. The promotion which runs until Dec. 31, 1997, provides existing and new members of Inter-Continental Hotels and Resorts loyalty programme, Six Continents Club, with the opportunity to enter a prize draw to win a new BMW Z3 Roadster.

Running at all of Inter. Continental Hotels throughout Middle East and Africa, members of the programme are entitled one entry to the draw each time they check in to an Inter. Continental hotel in the region. The BMW promotion is a further addition to the range of privileges enjoyed by members of the Six Continents Club such as a special check-in area, upgrade to a superior room — guests pay a single rate for a double occupancy — plus a VIP greeting and in-room gift, as well as an express check-out facility and check-out time extended to 4 p.m. concluded Banks.

Inter. Continental Hotels and Resorts is owned by the Saison Group of Japan and is represented worldwide via corporate offices in Amsterdam, Cairo, Hong Kong, London, Miami and New York. The company's portfolio now includes more than 200 hotels in 71 countries, which includes its first-class Inter. Continental Hotels and Resorts brand, mid-price hotels under the Forum Hotels and Resorts and Global Partners Hotels and Resorts.

Express Exchange

AFTER TEN years of absence, the Food and Beverage Exchange is back! The Hotel Inter. Continental Jordan's F & B Committee published the first volume for Middle East and Africa and distributed it to sister hotels world wide. The launching of re-implementing the magazine coincides with the 1997 year of F & B as announced by Inter-Continental worldwide.

In order to introduce the inaugural publication in style, the Hotel Inter. Continental had the first F & B Exchange delivered to Area President Mr. Raymond G. Khalife in person. The messenger was dressed in a traditional Jordanian outfit and hand delivered the publication. Copies were also sent to the F & B Conference in Egypt and mailed to all F & B managers in the area and General Managers worldwide.

Tunisian president vows to speed up privatisation

TUNIS (R) —

Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali has said his government wanted to speed up privatisation.

"We are concerned with going forward with the privatisation programme," he said in a message read on his behalf by Prime Minister Hamed Karoui at a meeting of chief executives of state firms.

"Regarding the sectors where there is competition, we will act to speed up the rhythm of privatisations during the coming period," he added.

"The opening up of the capital of public firms will continue," he said.

Mr. Ben Ali reiterated his government's long-standing privatisation policy, saying that "strategic firms" supplying public services were to remain public, while those called "non-strategic" and in sectors where

there is competition were to be privatised.

He called on public firms to enter into a "contract of programme" with the government and to improve their management.

A tender was opened last month to sell a Hilton-managed hotel in Tunis as part of a push to sell the last three hotels still owned by the state by the end of this year.

The government also plans to launch a tender this year to sell one cement factory, part of plans to sell the country's six cement firms.

Officials earlier this year said Tunisia wanted to privatise 63 public firms by the end of 1997.

In 1996, there were 32 privatisation operations carried out, with the sale of 19 state-owned firms.

REUTERS

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The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	HKD	INR	YEN
US Dollar	1.0000	1.7442	0.5942	1.4558	112.21	1.3734	170.40	1.9633	5.8807
DE Mark	0.5733	1.0000	0.3404	0.6347	64.34	0.7872	97.18	1.1255	3.3711
GB Sterling	1.6830	2.9355	1.0000	2.4504	163.82	2.3114	284.48	3.3054	9.9007
CH Franc	0.6885	1.1971	0.4076	1.0000	77.06	0.9427	1167.90	134.77	4.0371
JP Yen	0.0089	1.5534	0.5291	1.2970	1.0000	1.2231	15.15	174.86	5.2383
CA Dollar	0.7281	1.2769	0.4318	1.0652	1.22	1.0000	1243.27	143.73	4.3027
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0247	0.3480	0.0859	1518.37	0.0068	11.53	3.4553	2.9948
NL Guilder	0.5083	0.8811	0.3025	0.7416	57.12	0.5993	868.48	100.00	2.9948
FR Franc	0.1700	0.2965	0.1010	0.2476	19.06	0.2335	33.37	33.3700	1.0000

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	HKD	INR	YEN
US Dollar	1.0000	1.7442	0.5942	1.4558	112.21	1.3734	170.40	1.9633	5.8807
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	2.4504	0.8325	2.1412	242.67	3.1857	398.79	4.7852	141.24
GB Sterling	0.2668	0.4651	0.1005	0.2724	3.0806	0.3838	480.61	0.9033	26.68
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	4.5780	1.5983	3.86	437.24	5.74	727.84	8.9888	265.00
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.4745	0.1034	0.2747	3.0806	0.3838	480.61	0.9033	27.47
Kuwait Dinar	3.3089	5.7454	1.9734	4.6216	531.69	7.07	892.42	10.9308	330.89
Emirates Dinar	0.2724	0.4728	0.1027	0.2724	3.0806	0.3838	480.61	0.9033	27.24
Lebanese/1000	0.85	1.4611	0.5025	1.2306	139.11	1.78	223.11	2.7664	85.00
Egyptian	0.2952	0.5090	0.1707	0.4113	47.44	0.6082	763.23	9.523	29.52

Energy									
Oil	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	HKD	INR	YEN
Brent	18.61	32.56	11.92	28.37	325.61	42.56	532.56	661.92	186.10
WTI	18.44	32.37	11.84	28.20	323.74	42.37	530.84	659.84	184.40
Bonny	18.61	32.56	11.92	28.37	325.61	42.56	532.56	661.92	186.10
Dubai	18.50	32.40	11.80	28.20	323.74	42.37	530.84	659.84	185.00
UL Gas	181.00	320.00	110.00	270.00	3375.00	437.50	546.88	683.60	181.00

Metal Prices									
Metal	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	HKD	INR	YEN
Gold (oz)	315.5	555.5	195.5	445.5	5155.5	665.5	835.5	1045.5	315.5
Silver (oz)	4.39	7.65	2.75	6.25	71.55	9.25	11.55	14.55	4.39
Platinum (oz)	412	715	255	585	6755	875	1095	1365	412
AL (3 Months)	1594	2795	995	2255	25955	3355	4195	5255	1594
CU (3 Months)	2405	4195	1495	3395	38955	5055	6295	7895	2405
Zinc (3 Months)	1465	2555	915	2095	23955	3095	3895	4895	1465
Lead (3 Months)	855	1495	535	1215	13955	1795	2215	2795	855
Ni (3 Months)	8900	15500	5450	12450	143550	18450	22950	28450	8900

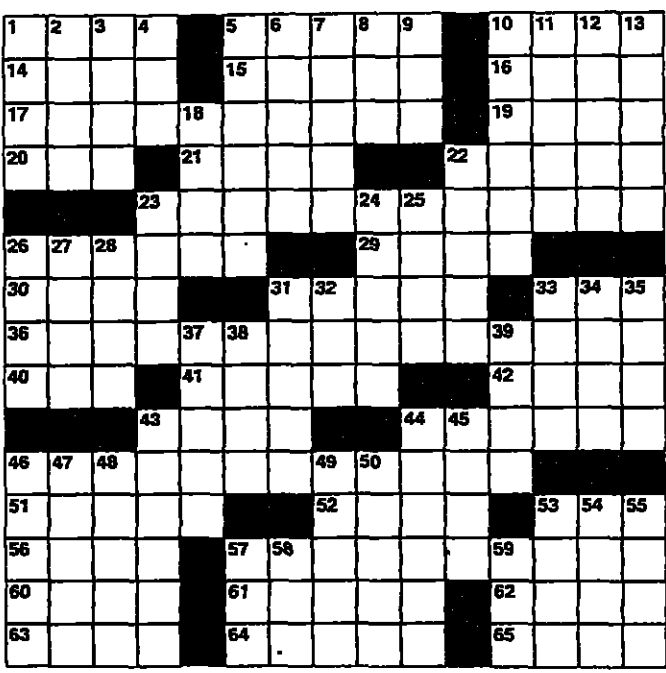
Main Equity Indices									
Index	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	HKD	INR	YEN
New York	7908.93	13712	4917	11209.38	128949	16595.81	20895.81	26195.81	7908.93
New York	818.85	14173	5019	11585	13182	16912	21182	26412	818.85
London	4797.7	8315	2931	6704	77616	9961	12461	15616	4797.7
Tokyo	19785.17	34283	1232	28319.31	32678.31	41678.31	52178.31	65178.31	19785.17
Paris	2940.72	5124	1821	4193.75	48295.81	6194.81	7744.81	9744.81	2940.72
Frankfurt	3572.84	6231	2207	5074.79	5846.73	7425.53	9245.53	11545.53	3572.84

Energy									
Commodity	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	HKD	INR	YEN
Coffee (c/lb)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1555	2705	965	2195	25055	3255	4055	5055	1555
Sugar (\$/ton)	325.5	565	200	455	5155	665	835	1045	325.5
Wheat (\$/ton)	146.5	255	91	209	2395	309	389	489	146.5
Soy (c/lb)	22.15	39	14	32	369	47	59	74	22.15
Tea (c/lb)	128	221	80	181	2095	269	339	429	128
Barley (\$/bsh)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rice (\$/ton)	480	835	300	685	7855	1005	1245	1565	480

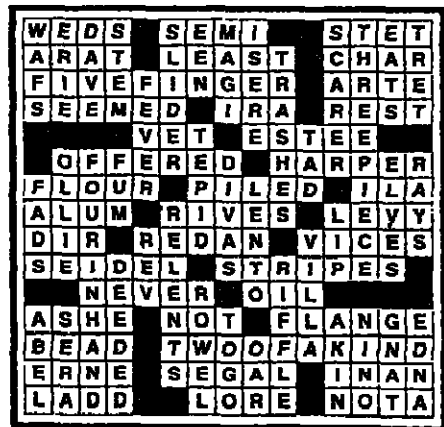
THE Daily Crossword

- ACROSS
- Immersed
 - Jewish teacher
 - Pulpit
 - Poet Khayyam
 - Great acclaim
 - Driver's signal
 - TV circuitry type
 - Cause pain
 - Piece (out)
 - Mouse target?
 - Pasta type
 - Car engine type
 - Look out
 - Hebrides island
 - Court call
 - Korean city
 - School dance
 - Large part of the universe
 - Append
 - Secret supply
 - Zone
 - 1965 PGA winner
 - Flat fish
 - Summer treat
 - Trace
 - Russian range
 - Flying org.
 - Always
 - Lesser cuts of meat
 - Star in Cetus
 - Vigilant
 - 1052
 - Dragging
 - Unwieldy
 - Arm bone

- DOWN
- Originated
 - Frenzied
 - Stake
 - Cycle or angle start
 - Salvage
 - Role player
 - Mont
 - Face the pitcher
 - Resident of: suff.
 - Widom goddess
 - Bank
 - Carried
 - Aquatic mammal
 - French couturier
 - Locker
 - adornment
 - Disconcert
 - Output
 - Journals
 - Fuse metal
 - Coronet
 - Swiss river
 - Plant
 - Cookie
 - Flint
 - Partake
 - Legend
 - Legendary NY manager
 - Cozily warm
 - Housing measure
 - Articles



by Anthony Mupo



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- 47 Gentleel
48 Spanish calendar word
49 Silent star, Normand
50 Retail position
53 Topple
54 Related
55 Laos locale
57 Hack
58 Eskimo knife
59 Ratite

HOROSCOPE
FORECAST
FOR TUESDAY
JULY 8, 1997

By Thomas S. Astor
Astrologer
Righter Forecaster

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Forget old dated techniques which will only hold you back in life, and try the modern methods. Enjoy your home this evening by having friends and fellow associates in and make them feel welcome.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Sit down with your mate today and discuss how to improve your credit situation and then by making your financial situation quite better. Show more affection for him or her, later this evening, and you both can be happy.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A light and enjoyable evening could take the tension out of a business situation and thereby making your experience more prosperous. Make the evening very romantic one by making your mate to someone special.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can find a way to improve your efficiency with career activities today by means proceed with full steam ahead. This improvement will make your career activities much more enjoyable and quite beneficial for the days ahead.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You may have to do quite a bit of running around today if you want to get your business activities properly organized for the days ahead. Later this evening will be good for see close friends for recreational activities.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Financial and property matters are very important at this time, so study them well, see where you stand, and set up a new budget if necessary. This evening you can seek out knowledgeable people for advice on business activities.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Plan a surprise today which will delight your mate quite a bit, and improve your relationship considerably. Be direct later this evening in stating your opinions and thereby you can clear the air of difficulties.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Try to make your property more valuable and modern looking today, however, be sure to stay within your budget, thereby you won't be short of funds. Have some close friends in the tonight and make them feel welcome.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You can get rid of feeling of today, and realize that you have many valuable talents which only need to be expressed. This is a good time to do some shopping, so proceed with your loved ones.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Your mate can propose some ideas today on how to handle a difficult financial matter, so listen to him or her and show gratitude for the assistance. Later this evening will be good for proceeding with career activities.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Several good friends may have the feeling today you've been ignoring them, so get together with these people and relieve their minds of that notion. Listen more and talk less to the idea of your mate so there can be harmony.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get some expert advice on how to improve your position in credit and give matters today, thereby becoming quite successful. Be very cautious in motion, especially on the highway and you can avoid any difficulties.

Birthstone of July: Pearl
— Ruby — Tiger's Eye

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Yugoslavia remain European basketball champions

BARCELONA (R) — Yugoslavia retained their men's European title on Sunday by outclassing previously unbeaten Italy 61-49 in the final.

In a game dominated by defenders, the Yugoslavs made the best of their scoring chances.

With the defenses so clearly in control, the raw talent of the powerful Yugoslav squad won out, particularly in the rebound department.

The Yugoslavs were also able to stem the scoring of Italy's Carlton Myers and Gregor Fucak, who had inflicted a 74-69 defeat on the reigning champions early in the tournament.

Myers scored 17 points and Fucak 12 but no other Italian player could manage more than six.

Italy wasted their first 10 possessions and took nearly seven minutes to clock up their first points, while poor shooting from both teams kept the score at the break down to just 28-23.



The Yugoslav basketball team celebrates with the cup after the end of the final of the European Basketball Championship in Barcelona's Olympic Palau Sant Jordi. Yugoslavia beat Italy 61-49 (Reuters photo).

The Italians pulled up to within just two points after the break, but the Yugoslavs outscored their opponents 13-1 in a crucial burst which took them into a commanding 43-29 lead.

The holders snuffed out a brief Italian revival, and with guard Alexander Djordjevic in control, were able to cruise to victory.

Djordjevic, who plays in Spain with Barcelona, was voted Most Valuable Player of the tournament. Russia beat Greece 97-77 in the third place game.

2nd Division Basketball

Fuheis pull out as matches resume today

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — While having their hands full with the national teams currently preparing for the 8th Pan-Arab Games starting July 12, the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) is now holding the 1997 second and third division championships with 12 teams taking part.

For the first time, the JBF has joined both division teams together playing in two groups. The top two teams in each group will advance to the final round the winner of which will be promoted to the first division as of the 1998 season.

The rest of the teams will be classified in the second division and the third division will thus be cancelled. JBF Secretary Mohammad Nabil Monday told the Jordan Times that second division teams would be required to register under-16 teams as a prerequisite for participation as of the coming season.

He also said that the JBF had amended the Group A schedule after last year's third division champs Al Fuheis pulled out Sunday.

"Their opponents (Homentmen) are considered the winner of that match and we have amended the schedule to have 5 teams in that group. They will be fined JD200 according to regulations," he explained.

Group A includes last year's 2nd division runner up Al Jeel, Abu

Nusair, Homentmen and newcomers Al Wihdat and Shiban. Group B includes Gazet Hashem, Al Raya, Qamim, Ebbin, Sama and Al Ashrafieh.

Group A includes mostly teams from the capital who seem to have the better chance of winning the competition.

Homentmen were formerly in the first division and have the most experienced yet inconsistent lineup who won the second division when ever they were relegated except for the past two years when Al Yarmouk and Al Hussein replaced them atop

the second division and were promoted.

Abu Nusair, Gazet Hashem, Al Jeel are expected to be also strong contenders for the sole qualifying berth to the First Division which now includes Jazreh, Albi, Orthodoxi, Jalil who will be joined by Hussein and this year's newly promoted team. Al Wazani and Yarmouk were relegated to the second division this year.

Four matches are scheduled for Tuesday in Irbid's Al Hassan Sports City and Amman's JBF court.

Group A						
TEAM	P	W	L	SE	SA	PTS
Al Jeel	1	1	-	71	60	2
Abu Nusair	1	1	-	74	32	2
Homentmen	1	1	-	20	0	2
Shiban	1	-	1	32	74	1
Wihdat	1	-	1	60	71	1
*Fuheis	-	-	-	-	-	-
*pulled-out of competition						
Group B						
TEAM	P	W	L	SE	SA	PTS
Raya	1	1	-	55	32	2
G. Hashem	1	1	-	43	19	2
Ashrafieh	1	1	-	39	30	2
Qamim	1	-	1	32	55	1
Sama	1	-	1	19	43	1
Ebbin	1	-	1	30	39	1

Sampras; Hingis pull away from rivals

LONDON (R) — The class of Pete Sampras and Martina Hingis, the undisputed king and teenage queen of this year's Wimbledon, is serving up an increasing dilemma for the guardians of world tennis.

No-one can possibly dispute the power and athleticism of Sampras or the poise and precocious talent of the 16-year-old Hingis, but a soggy fortnight at the All England Club could not disguise the shallow nature of the opposition.

Three times Wimbledon champion John McEnroe is among those convinced Sampras can break almost every Grand Slam record in the book following his comprehensive 6-4 6-2 6-4 demolition of France's Cedric Pioline, in Sunday's men's final.

Yet McEnroe is also genuinely concerned by the abrupt departure of Boris Becker from major tournament contention and cannot see where the next real challenge to Sampras, except on clay, is coming from.

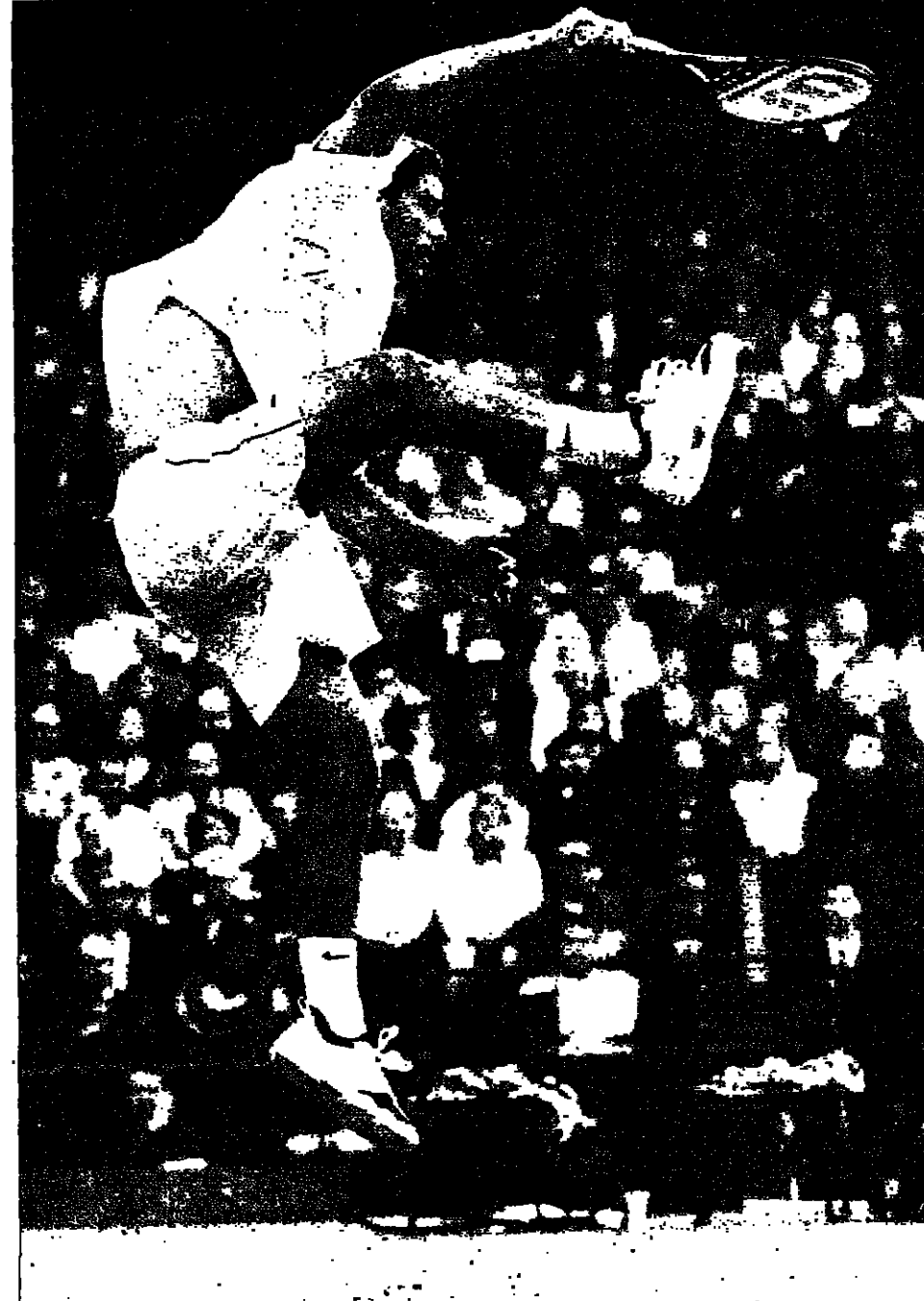
"I feel like I've been punched in the stomach," said McEnroe, reacting to Becker's announcement he has played his last Wimbledon. "I think it's just another blow to the men's game."

"He's the biggest personality we've had in the last 12 years and for him to go at 29 says something about the sport of tennis, that something needs to change."

The sight of Michael Stich also heading towards the exit will not break the hearts of as many fans, but with Andre Agassi an increasingly fitful performer and no star junior emerging in the United States, the quest for a genuine rival to Sampras is getting desperate.

The hope is that French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten, and a trio of German hopefuls — Tommy Haas, Nicolas Kiefer and junior sensation Daniel Elsner — may eventually develop into consistent Grand Slam contenders.

Until then, though, Sampras's pursuit of the three extra Grand Slam uses he needs to eclipse Roy Emerson's record of 12 does not look strewn with major obstacles.



Pete Sampras

"He'll certainly be able to do that," McEnroe predicted. "If he can stay healthy there's no reason why he can't win at least three or four more."

Sampras remains respectful about his peers — "Rod Laver could have won up to 20 titles because he was absent for six years, so it's a bit unfair to compare eras" — and as reluctant as ever to fill the showman role beloved of Connors and McEnroe.

"He's just the guy next door who happens to be a great tennis player," said his coach Paul Annacone. "I think I've got the best job in tennis."

The only dissenter to that

claim might be Melanie Molitor, Hingis's mother and coach, a significant cog in her daughter's blossoming career.

Saturday's 2-6 6-3 6-3 victory over Jana Novotna was further proof of the steel that lurks beneath Hingis's sweet exterior and, horse-riding accidents permitting, her immediate future appears as cloud-free as Sampras's.

With Steffi Graf laid up for six months with a knee injury and Monica Seles out of shape and distracted by her father's serious illness, the onus is one of her teenage rivals to step up a level.

Anna Kournikova did her

best, but the 16-year-old Russian's 6-3 6-2 semifinal defeat to Hingis suggested there is a long way to go. Venus Williams, similarly, is still orbiting outside the inner sanctum.

As for the rest, save Britons Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski, Australia's over-worked Woodbridge and assorted umbrella salesmen, the 11th championships will chiefly be remembered for what fell from the heavens rather than a deluge of divine tennis.

Thankfully, the sun shone on Sampras and Hingis towards the end, but the outlook for their rivals looks distinctly bleak.

Ecuador's World Cup chances suffer severe blow

MARACAIBO, Venezuela (R) —

Ecuador's chances of a first World Cup finals appearance were dealt a severe blow Sunday when they were held to a 1-1 draw by lightweights Venezuela.

Ecuador had been counting on maximum points in their South American qualifier against a team who had only collected two points from their previous 11 qualifying matches.

But after taking a 55th-minute lead through Ivan Hurtado, Ecuador saw victory slip from the grasp when substitute Gabriel Miranda equalised eight minutes from the end.

The result, in a match between the only South American countries never to have played at the World Cup finals, left Ecuador fifth in the single South American World Cup qualifying group with 15 points from 12 games.

They are one point behind fourth-placed Chile, who have played a game less.

"We expected more. We expected to win. The situation has become more complicated with this result and with the points we lost before," said Ecuador's Colombian coach Francisco Maturana.

"But while there's a chance, we must keep on fighting."



The Australian doubles team of Todd Woodbridge (L) and Mark Woodforde hold their trophies after beating Paul Haarhuis and Jacco Eltingh of the Netherlands the men's final at the Wimbledon tennis championships. Woodforde and Woodbridge won 7-6 7-6 5-7 6-3 to claim a record setting fifth consecutive Wimbledon men's doubles title (Reuters photo).

Woodies chalk up record-equalling doubles win

LONDON (AFP) — Australian top-seeds Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde chalked up a record-equalling fifth consecutive men's doubles title win at Wimbledon on Sunday when they beat second-seeded Dutch opponents Jacco Eltingh and Paul Haarhuis 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (9/7), 5-7, 6-3 in just under three hours on the centre-court.

The victory means that the Australian duo have now matched the record of five straight-wins set by Britain's Laurie and

Reggie Doherty from 1897 to 1901.

The win also puts them level with Sergio Casal and Emilio Sanchez with 44 career titles.

The only teams to win more tournaments in the Open era were Peter Fleming and John McEnroe of the United States, and South Africans Bob Hewitt and Frew McMillan. Both teams scored 57 tournament wins.

Opposition grows to Johnson wild card plan

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Plans to allow double Olympic champion Michael Johnson compete in the World Athletics Championships in Athens next month have run into trouble.

Johnson failed to make the United States team when injury forced him to miss the U.S. trials last month. International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) President Primo Nebiolo then proposed giving him a wild card.

USA Track and Field, who have refused to change their strict qualification rules, immediately welcomed the idea of a special invitation.

But there is growing opposition within

the IAAF, the sport's governing body, over the creation of a wild card system.

Although Johnson has been struggling this season after his historic 200 and 400 metre double in Atlanta, the Greeks know that the presence of the American would give greater publicity to the event.

Athens are bidding for the 2004 Olympics and a spectacular World Athletics Championships would improve their chances of winning the vote, to be taken later this year.

Why go as double Olympic champion and defending world champion and be beaten?" asked one official here.

Willen sinks Ca

LOS ANGELES (R) — Jose Canseco's three-run home run in the eighth inning of Sunday's game at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum helped the Oakland Athletics defeat the California Angels 5-3.

Canseco's blast was the first of three home runs he hit in the game, helping the Athletics to a 5-3 victory.

The Athletics' win was their first since July 1, when they lost to the Angels in a 10-inning game.

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Blue Jays blank Yankees

TORONTO (R) — Roger Clemens finished off a sensational first half of the season in style Sunday by becoming the Major League's first 13-game winner on a four-hit shutout as the Blue Jays blanked the New York Yankees 2-0.

Clemens (13-3) recorded his 39th career shutout and lowered his league-leading ERA to 1.69 against the suddenly anemic World Series champions.

"I wanted to come out and be aggressive in the zone and try to pour it on once the guys got a couple of runs," said Clemens, who struck out 10 Yankees.

Clemens, who joined Toronto this year as a free agent, had his fifth complete game this season in shutting down New York, who were shut out for the third time in their last five games.

"You have to credit the pitchers," said Yankees manager Joe Torre. "Good pitching will always stop good hitting."

Atlanta's Greg Maddux pitched a three-hitter in a 2-0 win at New York Wednesday and Juan Guzman and Kelvin Escobar combined on a two-hitter in Toronto's 1-0 win on Friday.

The Blue Jays scored both of their runs in the second inning off New York's Ramiro Mendoza (3-4), with



Seattle Mariners Jay Buhner is tagged out by Anaheim Angels catcher Todd Greene at the plate in the second inning. Buhner was trying to score from first base on a double by teammate Dan Wilson (Reuters photo)

Shawn Green's RBI double the key blow.

In Anaheim, Chuck Finley tossed a four-hitter for his first shutout of the season and Dave Hollins crushed a Grand Slam as the Anaheim Angels routed the Seattle Mariners 8-0.

Finley (5-6), bouncing back from injury woes, walked three and struck out a season-high 13 to improve to 16-7 in his career against the powerful, west division leading Seattle.

Hollins' grand-slam, his 11th homer of the season, was one of only two Anaheim hits in their five-run fourth inning.

Jeff Fassero, who left the game after spraining his ankle fielding a bunt in the fourth, dropped to 8-5.

In Detroit, the Tigers finished the first half on a rousing note, outslugging the league-leading Baltimore Orioles 14-9 in the rubber game of a five-game series.

In Cleveland, the Kansas

City Royals scored seven runs in the fourth inning but that wasn't good enough to snap their losing streak as the Indians rallied back for an 8-7 victory.

Marquis Grissom's two-out single in the eighth scored Omar Vizquel with the go-ahead run as the Cleveland bullpen allowed the Royals just one hit over the last 5 1/3 innings.

Kansas City scored seven in the fourth, sparked by a three-run double from Scott Cooper, for a 7-4 lead, but the Indians tied it in their half of the fourth. Grissom's clutch hit extended the Royals' slide to eight straight.

Cleveland's Sandy Alomar stretched his hitting streak to 30 games with an infield single in the second. He is one game away from tying nap Lajoie's 1906 club record.

In Chicago, Frank Thomas had a two-run double and Albert Belle added a pair of hits and an RBI as the Chicago White Sox beat the Boston

Red Sox 6-5 for their third straight win.

In Milwaukee, Dave Nilsson, Marc Newfield, and Jose Valentin smacked consecutive RBI doubles in a five-run third inning and Ben McDaniels posted his first win in over a month as the Milwaukee Brewers stopped the Minnesota Twins 6-2.

At Texas, Tony Batista and Jose Canseco both hit three-run homers to power the Oakland Athletics past the Rangers 9-8.

With the score tied at five entering the top of the sixth, Scott Brosius singled and Williams reached on a fielding error by Matt Whiteside (1-1). Batista then belted a 3-1 pitch over the left-field wall for his fourth homer and an 8-5 advantage.

Oakland reliever Aaron Small was tagged for three runs in the eighth, including a two-run homer by rusty Greer, but closer Billy Taylor came on to record the final five outs for his 16th save.

Guillen sinks Cards as Pirates cruise to victory

ST LOUIS (R) — Jose Guillen blasted a three-run homer as the Pittsburgh Pirates sank the St. Louis Cardinals 6-3 for a clean sweep of their four-game series that ran the Bucs' blistering win streak to seven games.

Guillen cracked his seventh home run of the season in the second inning off Todd Stottlemyre (7-6), giving the Pirates a 3-1 lead and sending them on the way to their sixth win over the Cardinals in eight meetings this season.

"He served up a good pitch," said Guillen, evaluating the offering from a hitter's perspective. "A fastball right down the middle. I made a good swing and that's the game."

Steve Cooke (7-9) yielded two runs as he scattered seven hits, walking four and striking out four, in seven innings.

"My game plan is all about keeping the other players off balance," Cooke said. "Having them not really know what's coming up to the plate. I was able to do that and keep the ball down."

The Pirates, one of baseball's lowest budget teams, improved to 43-43 and maintained a one-game lead over Houston atop the National League central division. St. Louis slid to two games back.

"They beat us in every aspect of the game," Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said. "They've done that for the past three games."

In Houston, Tony Eusebio's pinch-hit single with one out in the ninth inning scored Derek Bell and won the game for the Houston Astros edged the Cincinnati Reds 6-5.

Pinch-hitting for Bobby Abreu, Derek Bell beat out a slow bouncer to third. Brad Ausmus followed with a single off Mike Remlinger (3-4) to right, advancing Bell to third. Scott Sullivan relieved Remlinger and Eusebio, pinch-hitting for Tim Bogar, ripped an 0-1 single up the middle for the winning run.

"Today was my day," said Eusebio. "I got a fastball down and in. I got the pitch I was looking for and hit it."

Billy Wagner (5-3) pitched a perfect ninth for the win. Jeff Bagwell hit two homers for the Astros.

In San Diego, Tom Candiotti allowed one run over 7

1/3 innings as the Los Angeles Dodgers defeated the San Diego Padres 5-2 to sweep their three-game series and extend their winning streak to six games.

Brett Butler provided the key blow, stroking a two-run single in the fourth San Diego starter Sean Bergman to give the Dodgers a 4-0 lead.

In New York, Carl Everett's single to right field scored Alex Ochoa with the winning run in the bottom of the 12th inning as the New York Mets defeated the Florida Marlins 3-2, taking the final three games of their four-game series.

Ochoa reached second base when Marlins right fielder Gary Sheffield muffed his drifting fly ball in shallow right-center field. Everett then slashed a 1-1 pitch from Dennis Cook (1-2) into right field, scoring Ochoa easily.

Juan Acevedo (1-0) won in relief.

The Mets head to the all-star break at 48-38, eight games better than at this point last season. The three wins over the Marlins pulled them within two games of the NL wild-card spot.

The Marlins move into the break at 50-36, 10 games better than their record in 1996.

In San Francisco, Mark Gardner combined with three relievers on a five-hitter and the San Francisco Giants used a four-run first inning to hand the Colorado Rockies their sixth straight loss, 7-0.

Gardner (9-4) allowed five hits in six innings with nine strikeouts. John Johnstone, Jim Poole and Doug Henry combined for three hitless innings as the Giants posted 13 strikeouts.

The Giants won their fourth straight game, improving to 15 games over .500 at 51-36, and lead the Dodgers in the National League west by six games.

In Montreal, Jeff Juden pitched a six-hitter for his sixth straight win and Vladimir Guerrero homered and drove in three runs as the Montreal Expos snapped a four-game skid with a 6-2 victory over the Atlanta Braves.

Juden (11-2) walked one and struck out 11 as the Expos ended a five-game home losing streak and defeated Atlanta for the first

time in eight meetings this year.

"It feels pretty good, I'm happy the guys have been playing great," said Juden.

Braves starter Denny Neagle (12-2), who had won his last five decisions, gave up four runs — three earned — in losing for the first time since May 25.

In Philadelphia, Mark Grace hit his 100th career homer and drove in four runs and pitcher Frank Castillo added two hits and an RBI as

the Chicago Cubs dealt the Philadelphia Phillies their 20th loss in 22 games, 8-4.

Grace, who missed three games with a sore right ankle, became the 17th player in Cubs' history to reach the 100-homer mark when he hit a two-run blast off Mark Leiter (4-9) in the top of the first inning. Grace also delivered a two-run single in a four-run fourth that extended Chicago's lead to 7-0.

Castillo (6-9) took the win.

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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q. 1 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

AA5 CA98 07632 41054

The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1a Pass INT Pass

2c Pass 7

What do you bid now?

A - Partner's jump shift was forcing, so we know you were not thinking of passing. Or, for that matter, bidding three no trump without a stopper in either minor. If partner has five hearts, raising to four hearts would be right, but North might have only four. The way to find out is with a false preference to three spades, and wait to hear what partner does next.

Q. 2 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

AS 0A3 0AK62 4AKQJ43

The bidding has proceeded:

EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH

1a Dbl 2a Pass

What action do you take?

A - If you elect to double, don't be surprised if the opponents wrap up their contract. Your side has the balance of power, so East must have a highly distributional hand to keep to the spade game. Bid five clubs. You don't need much from partner to make it, and if you are defeated it won't be expensive.

Q. 3 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

4J108 075 0Q9542 4854

The bidding has proceeded:

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

10 Dbl Pass 7

What do you bid now?

A - Partner's double asks for your best suit, and there is no reason why you should not obey. (If you thought of bidding either one no trump or converting to penalties by passing, get a bidding primer now!) Bid one spade.

Q. 4 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

AK109 CAKQJNTS 0ER AS

The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1a Pass 2c Pass 7

What do you bid now?

A - We are prepared to play slam in hearts if partner has sufficient aces. The way to find out is to inquire by jumping to four no trump. Bid six hearts if partner shows two aces, and we would take our chances with a grand slam should partner show all three missing aces. If necessary, you might be able to develop the club suit for the fulfilling trick.

Q. 5 - Both vulnerable as South you hold:

45 0E83 0AQ109784 4A4

The bidding has proceeded:

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

10 Pass 1a Pass 7

What action do you take?

A - You have a hand rich in playing tricks but the high-card count is not enough for you to double first and then bid your suit. Overall two diamonds. To enter a live auction, vulnerable, at the two-level when both opponents are bidding and partner has passed takes a good hand. Unless partner can act over two diamonds, you are going nowhere.

Q. 6 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

4A5 0763 0AKQJ95 4A5

The bidding has proceeded:

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

10 Dbl Pass 1a Pass 7

What action do you take?

A - You have eight tricks in your hand. Our suggestion is that you jump to three no trump. On a good day partner will have a black-out king or something which will produce a ninth trick.

World's top players answer Fed Cup call

Hingis leads Swiss as Germans miss Graf

LONDON (AFP) — Fifteen of the world's top-20 ranked women's players have answered their country's call and will report for Fed Cup action at the weekend.

Wimbledon finalist Jana Novotna re-adapts back to clay in Prague after her exertions on the grass courts of the All England Club to spearhead the Czech Republic's bid to reach the elite World Group final.

The Czechs will be facing the Netherlands in Prague and the 28-year-old Novotna, who has reached a career-high number-two in the rankings, will be backed up by Adriana Gersi, Sandra Kleinova and Eva Martinova.

The Dutch, who scored an upset victory over the United States in their opening round World Group clash, will be basing their challenge around the big-serving of Brenda Schultz-McCarthy.

Schultz-McCarthy, a semi-finalist at Eastbourne, will have had time to rest for the tie since she was a third-round Wimbledon victim of Belgium's Sabine Appelmans.

Other members of the Dutch team are Miriam Oremans, Kristie Boogert and Manon Bollegraf.

In the other semi-final,



Jana Novotna

which will also be played in clay, Yannick Noah will be hoping he can continue to inspire his players in his first campaign as captain of the French team.

France, who defeated Japan in the first round, play Belgium who have called up Appelmans, Dominique Van Roost, Els Callens and Laurence Courtois.

The Belgians, like their Dutch neighbours, pulled off a major surprise in the first round when they defeated Spain — four-times champions since 1990.

Spain, again led by Wimbledon semi-finalist Arantxa Sanchez Vicario but without Conchita Martinez now face a tough clash against Australia in Hope Island, Queensland in one of the world group and Group Two play-offs.

On paper Spain, who are led by captain Miguel Margets, start favourites. Sanchez Vicario (6), Virginia Ruano Pascual (54) and Maria Antonia Sanchez (71) are ranked higher than their Australian opponents — Annabel Ellwood (58), Kerry-Anne Guse (78),

Rachel McQuillan (126) and Kristine Kunce (105) who have been called up by captain John Newcombe.

In the other play-offs, newly-crowned Wimbledon champion Martina Hingis will be joined by Patty Schyder and Emanuele Gagliardi in Zurich as Switzerland try to win promotion in the World Group against Argentina, whose team is made up of Florencia Labat, Maria Jose Gaidano, Mercedes Paz and Laura Montalvo.

Germany, sadly missing Steffi Graf who is recovering after a knee operation, take on Croatia in Frankfurt.

The German team is Anke Huber, Barbara Rittner, Andrea Glass and Meike Babel and they should prove too strong for the visitors — although Croatians have recent French open winner Iva Majoli alongside Sijia Talaja, Maja Muric and Mirjana Lucic.

And the United States face a far from easy home match against Japan — although team captain Martina Navratilova can count on the presence of Olympic champion Lindsay Davenport, Mary Joe Fernandez, Kimberly Po and Lisa Raymond.

The Japanese team are Ai Sugiyama, Naoko Sawamatsu, Naoko Kijimuta and Nana Miyagi.



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Christians angry over Virgin Mary depiction

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli magazine illustration showing Mary, the mother of Jesus, with the head of a cow has triggered angry responses from Christians and Muslims at a time when religious tensions in the Holy Land are already running high.

The publisher of the Israeli science periodical Galileo on Monday apologized to Palestinian Christians and Muslims for the picture that ran in April with two articles about cloning.

Jerusalem patriarch Michel Sabbah, the chief Roman Catholic clergyman in the Holy Land, said Monday the drawing was offensive. "We condemn it because we cannot understand that the magazine officials can be so naive to offend religious icons," Reverend Sabbah told the Associated Press.

However, Rev. Sabbah

accepted the apology, saying he didn't believe the magazine acted with malice. "We believe they have done it out of ignorance," he said.

Muslims who also revere Mary reacted more angrily.

Muslim clerics linked the Galileo illustration to a drawing of the Prophet Mohammad as a pig that was distributed last month by a Jewish extremist in the West Bank town of Hebron. Palestinian officials in the city have also claimed that Israeli troops desecrated several copies of the Koran, the Muslim Holy Book, during a raid of a Hebron elementary school last week.

"It is another crime to be added to the Jews' crimes in the attack against the Prophet Mohammad and the great Koran," said a statement by Muslim clerics and scholars.

Yasser Arafat's spokesman, Nabil Abourdenah,

said he believed the illustration was part of an organized campaign. "We blame the Israeli government for all these provocations and crimes," Mr. Abourdenah told the Palestinian daily Al Hayat.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement that he was sorry about the Galileo illustration. "I am deeply sorry about the hurt that the publication of such a picture has inflicted on people of the Christian faith," Mr. Netanyahu said in the statement, according to the Jerusalem Post daily.

Stephan Savitsky, the publisher of Galileo, said the magazine made a mistake. "Our choice of illustration was very poor," Mr. Savitsky said Monday. "It was done in an innocent way, but it showed that we were not sensitive enough."



LETTING LOOSE THE PEOPLE: A runner leads two fighting bulls through the cobble stone streets of the city Monday in the first 'encierro', or running of the bulls, in the famed San Fermin fiesta. The week-long fiesta, notorious for its drinking and jubilant spirits and popularised by Ernest Hemingway's 1926 novel *The Sun Also Rises*, attracts thousands of foreigners each year to this city in northern Spain where bulls are let loose each morning to run through the city streets. At least two runners were reported injured in the run on Monday morning (Reuters photo)

Hamas militant given 46 life sentences for suicide attacks

BEIT EL (AFP) — An Israeli military court Monday handed down 46 life sentences to a Palestinian Islamist militant convicted of planning three suicide bombings in Israel last year.

Hassan Salameh, a member of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), was convicted on June 30 of planning the attacks in February and March last year which left 46 people dead and helped derail the Middle East peace process.

Military prosecutors had demanded 46 life sentences, as only those convicted of Nazi war crimes can face the death penalty in Israel.

One judge had nevertheless pleaded in favour of capital punishment, but he was overruled by his two colleagues, court sources said.

"We estimate that the punishment of an eye for an eye or a tooth for a tooth is

a punishment above our powers to carry out," said Colonel Ilan Katz, one of the judges, reading the court's ruling.

"The murderous acts ... were carried out after the peace process began in our region. The accused carried out his acts not in order to protect the rights of Palestinians, as he said, but instead to ruin the process," said Mr. Katz.

The judge said the court's ruling was a message to "those who follow him and try to stop the process of reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians by means of torn corpses that they will stay in jail until their last days."

Mr. Salameh, 26, from Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip, was sporting a brown shirt and a neatly-trimmed beard as he was brought manacled into court.

He smiled briefly at journalists, but stood impassively looking at the judges as the sentence was read

out.

In addition to the life sentences, given for "premeditated manslaughter" as Salameh did not carry out the attacks himself, the court sentenced him to 20 years in jail for being a member of and carrying out activities for a banned organisation.

Mr. Katz said the life sentences were justified to protect the population of Israel, adding that a "new peak" of violence had been reached with the suicide bombings.

Hamas said the three attacks, including two against buses in Jerusalem, were in retaliation for the assassination of one of its military leaders in the Gaza Strip in January last year.

The three attacks, together with a fourth attack carried out by Islamic Jihad in Tel Aviv which killed 12 people, were largely blamed for turning the Israeli population against the peace policies of the

Labour government.

Three months later right-winger Benjamin Netanyahu pushed Labour out of power in general elections on a hardline platform stressing Israel's security needs.

Salameh's court-appointed lawyer Jawad Butos said he accepted the court's decision.

"It's a long sentence that takes into consideration all the angles of the issue and it is a sentence that I accept," he said. "It is a sentence expected ... considering that he confessed to the acts in court."

Salameh, who was captured last year in Hebron, has throughout the trial rejected the court's right to judge him.

Both Hamas and Islamic Jihad are fiercely opposed to the Oslo peace accords agreed by PNA leader Yasser Arafat and the Israelis in 1993 which allow for limited Palestinian autonomy.

Storm erupts over call for kibbutzim to be destroyed

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Orthodox Jewish newspaper has caused a storm by calling for kibbutzim, the collective farms at the heart of the Zionist vision of Israel's founding fathers, to wipe off the face of the earth.

"The correct way is to wipe out the last memory of this accident in the history of the Jewish people," said a column in the Kol Hashavua weekly.

The columnist wrote that "contrary to the legend they propagate, those living in kibbutzim do not work very much, exploit local workers, take up land they have been given for free and milk the state for money."

The paper's editor, Asher Zuckerman, defended the article, saying that "Israel's

270 kibbutzim have stolen more than five billion dollars from the Jewish people," an allusion to the huge debts run up by the collectives in the past.

But Avshalom Vilan, secretary general of the Kibbutz Ha'arzi Federation, described the article as "scandalous" and launched a verbal volley against the country's ultra-orthodox community.

The author of the article "represents a sector which is parasitic, does not work for its livelihood and does not participate in the country's defence," Mr. Vilan told the Jerusalem Post daily.

Most ultra-Orthodox Jews are exempt from compulsory military service so they can devote themselves

to religious study at Talmudic institutes.

The secretary general of the United Kibbutz Movement accused Kol Hashavua of "fanning the flames of intolerance and hostility between religious and secular Jews."

Yossi Sarid, leader of the left-wing Meretz Party, has called on Attorney General Eliakim Rubinstein to start criminal proceedings against the paper for stirring up hatred and intolerance.

Right-wing religious parties won an unprecedented 23 seats in the 120-seat Knesset in last May's elections, and they hold three ministries. Their leaders are currently implicated in a huge housing scam in Jerusalem.

Iraq takes steps to end illegal money lending

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council announced Monday that it planned to put a stop to illegal money lending.

The council said it would impose a penalty of "no less than three years in prison" for anyone convicted of lending money at an interest rate in excess of the rate at state-run banks.

Illegal lenders — many of whom operate out of their homes or back-room offices — have been known to charge 100 per cent interest per year on loans.

Government-run banks, which lend only for commercial purposes, charge about 14 per cent a year. It is not known how many people resort to illegal lenders for money. But the

number is believed to have risen sharply since the U.N. Security Council imposed sanctions on Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The sanctions bar Iraq from selling oil, its economic mainstay, until it has complied with U.N. resolutions calling for the elimination of its weapons of mass destruction.

The sanctions have hit the economy hard, and the U.N. has approved \$4 billion in limited oil sales to allow Iraq to buy needed food and medicine for its people.

Some people are forced to seek out money lenders to get funds for food and medicine, or to pay for hospitalisation or car repair.

Many put the deeds to their homes, their car papers or their dowry gold up as collateral, often forfeiting the property when they can't pay off the loan and usurious interest.

In addition to setting a minimum three-year prison term for conviction for illegal lending, the council also decreed that repeat offenders will face minimum 10-year prison terms.

The official Iraqi News Agency said the council also announced that a special fund to be known as the "poor box" will be established at the Labour and Social Affairs Ministry for money confiscated from convicted illegal lenders. The proceeds, it said, will be distributed to the poor.

Just before Madrid summit, NATO members still disagree over dollars

BRUSSELS (AFP) — When NATO debates membership for Eastern European states at its upcoming summit in Madrid one crucial factor will be missing — the cost.

Members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) have not been able to agree on even an estimated cost of expanding the defence alliance.

In the run-up to the summit on July 8 and 9, member states have done their own sums, but the results are contradictory.

The United States, which contributes the most cash to NATO, kicked off the debate in February, putting the cost of expansion, in a report to Congress, at between \$27 and \$35 billion over ten years — without saying how many new countries would be invited to join.

The figures were criticised immediately as a deliberate under-estimation aimed at winning over U.S. deputies to the idea of enlargement.

NATO carried out its own study based on the inclusion of one large state, such as Poland or Romania, and one small, such as Hungary or Slovenia.

It put the cost at several hundreds of millions of dollars for each category or less than \$5 billion over ten years if NATO agreed in Madrid to include five new countries — Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Slovenia.

The report took into account only those costs to be born by the current 16-member states. It did not include the cost to new members of upgrading and making compatible their

defence systems.

The U.S. report, on the other hand, did include those costs. But even taking that into account, the difference between the two estimates remains huge.

Experts say cost is one reason why U.S. President Bill Clinton — with only mild congressional support for enlargement — has not sought to expand the membership list beyond the three nations whose inclusion everyone supports: Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic.

Italy retorted that without its neighbour Slovenia, Hungary would be geographically isolated from other member states, adding to the alliance's costs.

In June, NATO defence ministers postponed their response on the cost of enlargement until December, agreeing to undertake a deeper analysis.

But as one NATO official put it: "It's impossible to know how much enlargement will cost before we know how many countries are going to join."

The redistribution of costs between existing members and the contribution to NATO of new members is also still to be decided.

In Eastern Europe, meanwhile, a similar debate is raging. In Hungary, a high-ranking military official estimates joining NATO will cost his country \$157 million a year for 10 years.

In Poland, one defence organisation said it would cost \$84 million a year just to bring the Polish army into line with NATO norms. NATO's annual global budget is around \$2 billion.

Japanese Red Army court trial resumes in Lebanon

BEIRUT (AFP) — The trial of five ageing members of the Japanese Red Army extremist group arrested in Lebanon on forgery charges resumed Monday for a final session during which a date for a verdict is expected to be set.

The criminal court is due to hear the final arguments from five defence attorneys, including opposition MP Najah Wakim, before setting a date for a verdict which can be appealed.

Security was tight at the courtroom in the heavily-guarded Palace of Justice and photographers were banned from taking pictures of the five defendants, who appeared calm and relaxed.

Kozo Okamoto, 49, Kazuo Tohira, 44, Haro Wako, 48, Masao Adachi, 57, and Mariko Yamamoto, 56, the lone woman defendant, are charged with falsifying documents, using false passports and illegally entering and residing in Lebanon. They face sentences of at least seven years in jail if convicted.

They have not been charged, however, with any offences relating to their membership of the Japanese Red Army, which carried out a string of bloody terrorist attacks in Asia, Europe and the Middle East in the 1970s and 1980s.

Court accepts brother's right to decide if Britons are to die

RIYADH (AFP) — Two British nurses on trial for killing an Australian colleague suffered a setback on Monday as a Saudi court ruled that the victim's brother could decide whether to spare their lives if they are convicted.

Defence lawyer Anwar Bakhurji said the court in the eastern city of Khobar recognised that brother Frank Gilford who has taken a hard line was speaking on behalf of the victim's family.

It accepted a power of attorney from victim Yvonne Gilford's mother to the brother, he told AFP. "The court found the documents and papers enough."

The latest hearing in the closed-door trial which opened on May 19 followed two adjournments to allow lawyers for the Gilford family in Australia to nail down

the claim of Mr. Gilford. Under Islamic law, the victim's family has the right to grant mercy and accept a financial settlement, saving the killers of their relatives from being beheaded for premeditated murder.

Mr. Gilford has so far refused to consider mercy for the British nurses, Lucille McLaughlin and Deborah Parry, if they are found guilty of killing their colleague.

The issue of the family's rights had to be established before a verdict on the killing itself, Mr. Bakhurji said a date was not set for the next hearing.

Yvonne Gilford was found dead on December 11 in a hospital dormitory of Dhahran, near Khobar. She had been stabbed 13 times — including in the heart, both lungs and the kidney —

battered and suffocated. Because Yvonne Gilford's 85-year-old mother Muriel is in a nursing home suffering from Alzheimer's disease, the Saudi court at first rejected a power of attorney she granted to Mr. Gilford three years ago, legal sources said.

But lawyers for the Gilford family insisted the brother was also speaking on behalf of his mother, the only other surviving immediate blood relative of 55-year-old Yvonne.

Mr. Gilford has declined offers to meet the families of the Britons and said he would not consider the option of a reconciliation before the court gives its verdict.

The nurses have retracted confessions which they said were extracted under duress and by promises of plane tickets out of Saudi Arabia.



Human body parts may be latest Paris couture craze

PARIS (R) — The autumn-winter haute couture season opened in Paris amid a furor over a report that Monday's Givenchy collection by British designer Alexander McQueen will contain human body parts. McQueen, who was hired by Givenchy in October, is recycling bits of human bone, teeth and other body parts in the house's couture collection, according to the Sunday Times of London. Givenchy spokesman Eric Lanuit denied the police had received a complaint about the new collection, but refused to comment when asked whether the clothes included human bones, whether real or fake. Instead, he urged a reporter to see the Givenchy show when it is unveiled Monday, ironically, at a Paris medical school.

China airline names plane after handover

BEIJING (R) — A Chinese airline has named one of its new passenger planes "Return of Hong Kong" to commemorate the return of the former British colony to Chinese rule on July 1, the People's Daily overseas edition said on Monday. The 320 Airbus was turned over to its owner — Southern Airlines — last week, shortly after the handover of Hong Kong. Airbus painted the new plane free of charge and held a special joint delivery and handover celebration, it said. The plane would be used by Southern Airlines on routes between the southern city Guangzhou and the southern western cities of Guilin and Kunming, it said.

Wild party kicks off Pamplona bull-run festival

PAMPLONA (R) — With fireworks and the cry "Viva San Fermin," tens of thousands of bullfighting enthusiasts cheered wildly and drenched each other in champagne at the official opening of Pamplona's running of the bulls, "Viva San Fermin," shouted Pamplona Mayor Javier Chaurruarri as he set off a small rocket in ceremony marking the start of the world-famous festival honouring the city's Patron Saint San Fermin. Bands blared under red and white flags and banners proclaiming support for Basque Nationalism and even the Basque separatist guerrilla group ETA. The nine-day Bacchanalia, where runners risk life and limb to dodge charging half-tonne bulls, was made famous by American author Ernest Hemingway in his 1926 novel "The Sun Also Rises" and has since drawn crowds of tourists as well as locals.

Warsaw amusement park aid Jackson's return to childhood

WARSAW (AP) — Michael Jackson may realise his "dream of returning to the world of childhood" at an old Polish military airport. The king of pop wants to build a \$100 million amusement park at the old Bemowo Airport in northeast Warsaw. "We are treating it as a serious proposal, especially since there is no big amusement park in Warsaw or even in this part of Europe," said Council spokeswoman Jolanta Kalke, noting the project is a long way from being approved. Last week, two of Jackson's representatives came to inspect the airport, where 100,000 fans heard him give his first concert. Jackson was in Poland during a visit in May in which he wanted to build the amusement park to make real his "dream of returning to the world of childhood."

People die, border tra

SAUDI ARABIA — Eight people heading for Iraq in a truck from Iraq. The official Saudi bus passengers heading for Iraq. Police said that of the Saudi bus passengers heading for Iraq. He added that the bus was carrying 10 passengers. He noted that

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